

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act 2009:

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Darkness to Light

Address of Requesting Entity: 7 Radcliffe Street, Suite 200, Charleston, SC 29403

Description of Request: Darkness to Light (D2L), a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Charleston, SC. D2L is continuing its effort to increase utilization of its "Stewards of Children" adult prevention training program to increase help adults recognize, react, and respond to child sexual abuse. With the help of past federal support, D2L has trained over 1,000 facilitators in 44 states, affecting millions of children. These dollars will be matched one-to-one by D2L.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: USACE Charleston District

Address of Requesting Entity: 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Description of Request: Conduct construction activities related to the authorized dredged material disposal area at Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: USACE Charleston District

Address of Requesting Entity: 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Description of Request: Conduct authorized maintenance activities on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in South Carolina.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: USACE Charleston District

Address of Requesting Entity: 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Description of Request: Conduct authorized maintenance activities at Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: USACE Charleston District

Address of Requesting Entity: 69A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Description of Request: Conduct authorized maintenance activities at Georgetown Harbor, Georgetown, SC.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund, Save America's Treasures

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Georgetown Old Market/Rice Museum

Address of Requesting Entity: 633 Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29442

Description of Request: The Old Market Building in downtown Georgetown, SC will undergo extensive renovation and repair to maintain its structural integrity. On the National Historic Register, it is the most visited and photographed site in Georgetown and the center of tourism traffic. Dating to 1853, it must undergo extensive renovation and repair to maintain its structural integrity.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education, Funding for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The College of Charleston

Address of Requesting Entity: 66 George St., Charleston, SC 29424

Description of Request: The College of Charleston's School of Science and Mathematics, in partnership with several state, regional, and federal agencies is developing a new Lowcountry Hazards Center to act as a nexus for natural and social scientists working collaboratively to formulate the most effective means to evaluate natural hazard risks and to develop mitigation strategies. The funds would support the purchase of equipment needed to educate students, policymakers, and the community; to strengthen research efforts; support interdisciplinary research; and to help make the Lowcountry a more disaster-resilient community.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA, Health Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Medical University of South Carolina—Children's Hospital

Address of Requesting Entity: 169 Ashley Avenue, Charleston, SC 29425

Description of Request: The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Children's Hospital is South Carolina's largest and most comprehensive pediatric healthcare center. MUSC Children's Hospital's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, the only one in the region, is staffed exclusively by trained pediatric critical care physicians and nurses. Funding will purchase of pediatric cardiology lab equipment.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, FTA, Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA)

Address of Requesting Entity: 36 John Street, Charleston, SC 29403

Description of Request: CARTA is currently constructing a new Intermodal transportation center for the entire Charleston region. This center, located near an exit with Interstate 26, will provide AMTRAK with a new passenger terminal, serve as a hub for local bus service, and provide easy access to the nearby Charleston International Airport. Additionally, this project will be the first-ever Transit Oriented Development project in the Charleston-region, with plans to construct mix-use office and residential space on the property.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Horry County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1301 Second Avenue, Conway, SC 29526

Description of Request: The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is currently working through the environmental process with local stakeholders to identify options for improving mobility in the South Strand and Waccamaw Neck area of Horry and Georgetown Counties. This is especially important as the area sees some 14 million tourists annually during the height of hurricane season. Funding will allow SCDOT to work on completing the project's final EIS.

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Town of Mount Pleasant

Address of Requesting Entity: 100 Ann Edwards Lane, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Description of Request: The Town of Mt. Pleasant, in coordination with state and federal agencies, is conducting a much needed widening of US 17 north of the Cooper River Bridge. Not only will this project improve traffic flow for commuters going in and out of Charleston, but it will also assist local residents as they move along the main street of the rapidly growing Mt. Pleasant community. This project is included the state transportation plan and is eligible for funding under the Transportation & Community & System Preservation discretionary account

Requesting Member: HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: South Carolina Maritime Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 22405, Charleston, SC 29413

Description of Request: The South Carolina Maritime Foundation's mission is to offer effective, unique educational opportunities aboard

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Spirit of South Carolina tall ship for the students of South Carolina focusing on the history, math, science and literature of South Carolina's water resources and encouraging personal responsibility, contribution to community and stewardship of environment. Funds will be used to complete construction and make equipment purchases related to the Spirit of South Carolina's education and leadership development programs for troubled youth.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Special Research Grant (SRG)

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: University of Florida—Institute of Foods and Agriculture Sciences (UF-IFAS)

Address of Receiving Entity: 700 Experiment Station Red, Lake Alfred, Florida 33850

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,217,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the SRG account for Citrus Canker and Greening research.

This funding will be used for research by UF-IFAS to improve technologies for treatment and detection, methods of movement and containment, and means to control and eliminate citrus canker and citrus greening.

The benefit of this project is the management of citrus canker and greening to minimize mortality and yield loss in a cost effective manner. This research is imperative to Florida citrus and all U.S. citrus production.

The University of Florida—Institute of Foods and Agriculture Sciences/Horticulture Research Laboratory, the state of Florida, and Florida Citrus Mutual have matching funds totaling \$13 million for this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: PACE Center for Girls, Inc.

Address of Receiving Entity: 1 West Adams Street Suite 301 Jacksonville, FL 32202

Description of Request: I have secured \$100,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the OJP-Juvenile Justice Account, under the Department of Justice for the PACE Center for Girls Inc.

The purpose of this gender-responsive assessment instrument is to predict risk for involvement or further involvement in the juvenile justice system among adolescent girls and to ensure a treatment model based on assessment data. This assessment instrument and program model has been called for by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Girls Study Group and as the only

statewide gender-responsive prevention program in the country.

The funding would be used for to conduct an external evaluation of the PACE Center for Girl's prevention program delivery model so that it can be replicated nationally and to train staff on implementation at all 18 PACE Center locations across Florida.

Pace Center for Girls will match \$100,000 of state funds from the Dept. of Juvenile Justice and \$100,000 is contributed to the program through PACE Center for Girls funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Address of Receiving Entity: 117 W. Duval St., #400 Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,200,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Office of Justice Programs—Byrne Discretionary Grants under the Department of Justice for the Jacksonville Journey Anti-Violence Initiative.

Jacksonville has been the "murder capital" of Florida for eight years running, and 14 of the last 19 years, with the per capita homicide rate spiking at an alarming rate since 2001. More than 10% of the murders in Florida occur in Duval County, even though it represents about 5% of the state population.

Federal funding will help implement the Jacksonville Journey Anti-Violence Initiative, a comprehensive approach to reduce Duval County's exceptionally high level of murder and violence through integrated enforcement, intervention, and prevention activities. Elements of the strategy include intensified community policing and technologies targeting violence "hot spots," illegal gun abatement through gun bounties, heightened enforcement, and jurisdictional information-sharing. At-risk youth interventions and positive youth development programs will provide after-school havens, employment, and chronic truancy reduction will also be a focus of the Jacksonville Journey program.

The Jacksonville Journey Anti-Violence Initiative is funded by local, state, and private funds at \$5,200,000.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Sheriff

Address of Receiving Entity: 501 East Bay Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Description of Request: I have secured \$700,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the COPS Law Enforcement Technology Account under the Department of Justice for Atmospheric Detection Equipment for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is seeking Atmospheric Detection to monitor atmospheric conditions related to: HazMat accidents, emergency situations and criminal activity. By providing funding for this project it will enhance the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office detection capability and mitigate consequences to HazMat accidents and crime scenes, increase public and officer safety.

This project will serve the Port of Jacksonville, DOD facilities based at the Port of Jacksonville, and all of Duval County. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office responds to Atmospheric Emergency situations for both commercial and military facilities at the port of Jacksonville. Federal assets at the Port of Jacksonville do not have the capabilities for atmospheric detection that this project will provide.

The Jacksonville Police Department is contributing \$551,374 over a four year period for officer training and administrative costs related to this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Union County Sheriff

Address of Receiving Entity: 55 W Main St Courthouse, #102, Lake Butler, FL 32054

Description of Request: I have secured \$450,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the COPS Law Enforcement Technology Account under the Department of Justice for the Visual Intelligence Tool for Union County Sheriff.

The Counties of North Florida will greatly benefit from the availability of this Law Enforcement Visual Intelligence Tool. It will allow them to manage natural disasters, crime scenes, and emergencies. Within seconds, a law enforcement officer will be able to view and analyze any house, building, intersection, fire hydrant, tree or any feature in the county from their laptop, workstation, or mobile device.

The Union County Sheriff will administer the program for the following eight North Florida counties: Union, Baker, Nassau, Columbia, Hamilton, Madison, Jefferson and Leon.

No matching funds necessary.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Office of Justice Programs: Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Youth Crisis Center, Inc.

Address of Receiving Entity: 3015 Parental Home Rd Jacksonville, FL 32216

Description of Request: I have secured \$200,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the OJP-Juvenile Justice Program, under the Department of Justice for the New Life Village.

New Life Village is an Independent Living and Transitional Living complex and program whose primary function is to prepare disadvantaged youth for the transition to adulthood. Clients coming to New Life Village will be youth in foster care, youth referred from juvenile justice programs, and youth who are temporarily or permanently homeless.

New Life Village will provide these at-risk youths with an intervention program that provides stable housing in a caring environment supported by therapeutic services, education/career planning, job readiness development and independent living skills, all with a focus of helping them to successfully transition to adulthood.

The Youth Crisis Center will contribute \$1.2 million to the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Tallahassee Community College

Address of Receiving Entity: 444 Appleyard Drive Tallahassee, FL 32304

Description of Request: I have secured \$100,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the OJP Byrne Discretionary Grant Program under the Department of Justice for the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy at Tallahassee Community College.

After the September 11, 2001 tragic events, a concerted effort was begun by law enforcement agencies to reduce barriers that impede intelligence sharing so that future tragedies could be prevented.

The National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP) was developed as a key tool that law enforcement agencies can employ to support crime-fighting and public safety efforts. The NCISP developed minimum criminal intelligence training standards for law enforcement personnel, and recommended that "training should be provided to all levels of law enforcement personnel involved in the criminal intelligence process."

The Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy (PTLEA) at Tallahassee Community College initiated a project to update existing intelligence training programs at PTLEA to enable law enforcement and other criminal justice agency personnel engaged in the planning, collection, collation, analysis, and dissemination of information and criminal intelligence to meet NCISP standards.

Tallahassee Community College will contribute \$394,000 to the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Investigations

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Address of Receiving Entity: 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Description of Request: I have secured \$167,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Investigations Account under the Army Corps of Engineers for the Mile Point Study.

The funding would study possible improvements to the Mile Point area in the St. John's River where erosion issues severely restrict deep draft navigation. This a major safety concerns for all commercial vessels transiting to the Jacksonville Port Authority.

The study is cost-shared 50% Federal, 50% non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor for this project is the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPort).

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Construction

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Address of Receiving Entity: 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,349,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Construction Account under the Army Corps of Engineers for the Jacksonville Harbor.

The funding would complete Phase II dredging of the federal ship channel to the Talleyrand Terminal.

The study is cost-shared 75% Federal, 25% non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor for this

project is the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPort).

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Address of Receiving Entity: 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Description of Request: I have secured \$5,650,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Operations and Maintenance Account under the Army Corps of Engineers for the Jacksonville Harbor.

The funding would provide routine maintenance dredging to the federal shipping channel.

There is not a cost share for routine operations and maintenance, it is 100% Federally funded.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Operations and Maintenance

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Address of Receiving Entity: 701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Description of Request: I have secured \$5,890,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Operations and Maintenance Account under the Army Corps of Engineers for the Intercoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, FL.

The funding would provide maintenance dredging for the waterway.

The Florida Inland Navigation District will provide \$2,500,000 in matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Electricity Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: City of Tallahassee, Florida

Address of Receiving Entity: 300 S. Adams Street Tallahassee, FL 32301

Description of Request: I have secured \$570,900 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Electricity Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account under the Department of Energy for the City of Tallahassee Innovative Energy Initiatives.

The City of Tallahassee will provide \$2,000,000 in matching funds for this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Small Business Administration

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Operation New Hope

Address of Receiving Entity: 1830 N. Main St. Jacksonville, FL 32206

Description of Request: I have secured \$500,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Small Business Administration Account for Operation New Hope.

Jacksonville, Florida has continued to experience one of the nation's highest murder rates. Many experts have come to now understand that successful re-entry can be one of the best ways to address violence and crime. The funding of this program dramatically improves public safety by taking people out of

the cycle of crime. This program also supports small businesses by introducing many new workers to the workforce.

The State of Florida, City of Jacksonville and other private sources will contribute \$2,450,000 to this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: City of Jacksonville Beach

Address of Receiving Entity: 11 North Third St., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Description of Request: I have secured \$500,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project account under the Environmental Protection Agency for the City of Jacksonville Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

This funding will be used for the removal of nutrients from the City's wastewater effluent before it is discharged into the lower St. Johns River, a federally designated impaired river segment, with a January 2006 EPA-mandated 5-year cycle Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with requirements for Wastewater NPDES Permit holders to reduce nutrients significantly to at or near Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Standards.

The City of Jacksonville Beach will provide 45% in required non-Federal matching funds for the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Land Acquisition

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: United States Forest Service

Address of Receiving Entity: 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250

Description of Request: I have secured \$500,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Land Acquisition account for the Florida National Forest, Osceola.

The purchase of this parcel of land, which is over 1,500 acres, will bridge the gap between and connect the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and the Osceola National Forest, creating one of the largest forested wetland habitat corridors east of the Mississippi River.

There are no matching funds required for this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Higher Education (including FIPSE), Department of Education

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: The Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership

Address of Receiving Entity: 4019 Boulevard Center Drive Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Higher Education Account within the Department of Education for the Florida ESOL E-Learning Network.

School districts in Florida duplicate their efforts by creating and revising their own ESOL courses and having them approved by the state. The Florida ESOL E-Learning Network will provide an educational interactive network to serve all districts with constant and state-approved ESOL courses. By offering the

courses online, the Schultz Center will be able to serve larger numbers of teachers in multiple school districts within the state.

The Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership will provide \$105,000 in non-Federal matching funds for the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Elementary & Secondary Education (including FIE), Department of Education

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: City of Jacksonville, Florida

Address of Receiving Entity: 117 W. Duval Street Suite 400 Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Description of Request: I have secured \$333,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Elementary & Secondary Education account within the Department of Education for the Jacksonville Journey alternative education program.

More than 15% of all middle school and high school students in Duval County are two or more years behind grade level. "Overage" is a prime indicator for truancy, behavioral problems, and likelihood of coming into contact with the juvenile justice system. As part of its Jacksonville Journey initiative aimed at preventing and reducing crime, the City of Jacksonville is partnering with the Duval County Public Schools to expand a program that provides alternative education opportunities for overage and academically-challenged students. The Alternative Learning Centers program is currently established in 16 comprehensive high schools located throughout the district. The program is designed to eliminate the achievement gap faced by these struggling youth and provide them with the skills and knowledge necessary to move on to higher education or employment.

The City of Jacksonville will provide \$400,000 in non-Federal matching funds for the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Elementary & Secondary Education (including FIE), Department of Education

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Duval County Public Schools

Address of Receiving Entity: 1701 Prudential Drive Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Description of Request: I have secured \$285,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Elementary & Secondary Education account within the Department of Education for the Instructional Technology Initiative including for the purchase of equipment.

The Instructional Technology Initiative would provide an innovative and effective method for engaging students who are falling behind in their oral language and reading skills. Intervention products use software founded on adaptive technology that matches the participant's incoming skill level and developmental progress through training exercises. These exercises are continuously calibrated and adjusted to the student's changing skill levels to ensure that they are constantly challenged. Along with Duval County Public Schools, the Instructional Technology Initiative will ensure that these students will not be denied the education they deserve.

The State of Florida and The City of Jacksonville will provide \$650,000 in non-Federal matching funds for the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Higher Education (including FIPSE), Department of Education

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Lake City Community College

Address of Receiving Entity: 149 SE College Place Lake City, Florida 32025

Description of Request: I have secured \$95,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Higher Education Account within the Department of Education for the Math for College and Career Excellence program.

More than 70% of the high school graduates that enroll in Lake City Community College do not have the foundational math skills needed for success in college and the workforce. The Math for College and Career Excellence program will address this critical issue by raising academic standards and expectations; institutionalizing collaboration between high school and college faculty; incorporating "real world" applications from careers that depend on math skills; and, ensuring high school graduation standards predict success in both college and career.

Program research outcomes will enable stakeholders to align curricula, assessment tools, and definitions of college- and career-readiness, ensuring that students exit high school ready for success. Building on strong academic partnerships and competitively awarded grant funding, the Math for College and Career Excellence program will transform local math education, support statewide enhancement initiatives, and produce a qualified workforce for 21st century careers.

Lake City Community College will provide \$267,000 in non-Federal matching funds for the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Higher Education (including FIPSE), Department of Education

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: North Florida Community College

Address of Receiving Entity: 325 NW Turner Davis Drive Madison, FL 32340

Description of Request: I have secured \$143,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Higher Education Account within the Department of Education for the purchase of equipment for North Florida Community College.

Specifically, this funding will provide two Human Patient Simulators, which are essential to teaching methodology for nursing, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and other allied health students enrolled at North Florida Community College. With limited clinics and hospitals, using the human patient simulator offers students critical "hands on" experience. Additional equipment, such as dopplers, scanners, computerized charting systems and simulated barcode medication administration programs, ensures that the simulation experience is as close to the present technology utilized in modern health care facilities. Providing students with the opportunity to learn and then practice patient care, computerized documentation and medication administration systems in a simulated environ-

ment promotes student success and enhances the safety of the patient in the clinical area.

This is a one-time purchase of equipment and the Federal funds will cover the purchase price.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Employment and Training Administration (ETA)—Training & Employment Services (TES)

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Florida Community College, Jacksonville

Address of Receiving Entity: 501 W. State Street Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Description of Request: I have secured \$381,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA)—Training & Employment Services (TES) Account within the Department of Education for a veterans employment and training initiative.

As an increasing number of our nation's soldiers, sailors and airmen return to civilian life from service in combat zones, they face the sometimes enormous challenge of reestablishing their family life and re-entering the workforce. Many have no substantial civilian work experience and struggle to translate their military experience to the demands of civilian employers. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that nearly fifteen percent—that's three times the national average—of veterans aged 20–24 are jobless. The Veterans Center for Career Re-Entry will provide the skills assessment, agency referrals, case management, education and employment counseling that veterans in northeast Florida need to successfully re-enter the workforce.

The state of Florida will provide \$80,000 in matching funds for this program.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Federal Lands (Public Lands Highways)

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: United States Department of Transportation

Address of Receiving Entity: 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20590

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Federal Lands (Public Lands Highways) account for construction of a paved, two-way road and bridge connection from State Road A1A to Fort George Island.

Funding is requested to construct access road improvements on Ft. George Island. As part of recommendations from a federally-sponsored FY2006 study, improvements are needed to alleviate roadway hazards and create a safe, efficient flow for traffic—while preserving the unique character of the Island. Specifically, funds will construct a paved, 2-way road and bridge connection from State Route A1A across Batten Island to Ft. George Island. Construction will also include a new intersection at Palmetto and Ft. George Roads, a park security gate, and a 2-way, paved connector road to handle traffic generated by visitors accessing the primary park area.

The Ft. George Island access road is a long-term solution for controlling traffic to the island and the State national parks. A new intersection at Palmetto and Ft. George Roads would separate automobile traffic from the

tabby ruins located immediately to the west of the existing Ft. George Road entrance to the island. This routing also would remove traffic from one of the most hazardous sections of Ft. George Road. In addition, the security gate would be incorporated into the design to control access to the island after park hours to address security concerns of local residents and enhance protection of the island.

The State/Local share is 20%; total funds available for matching are \$500,000.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Receiving Entity: 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Surface Transportation Priorities account for Heckscher Drive Widening and Bridge Replacement.

This project is part of a roadway improvement and installation of new waterway bridge structures to improve capacity and safety for this major arterial. This road will connect major sea ports (commercial and passenger) to I-95, I-295 and commercial/industrial developments and is an evacuation route for Duval and Nassau Counties.

It will also serve a major new international container shipping seaport, which will begin operations in late 2008 and another major international container shipping seaport, which is scheduled to begin operations in 2011.

These two new container ports will more than double trips along Heckscher Drive from 11,000 vehicles per day in 2007 to 26,000 vehicles per day in 2030, while bringing as estimated additional 12,000 jobs to the Northeast Florida area.

All other funds for constructing this facility are currently available from local and state sources. The State/Local share is 20% of the total project cost. The Jacksonville Transportation Authority is in possession of the required matching funds and is committed to their financial obligation in order to complete the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Aviation Authority

Address of Receiving Entity: 14201 Pecan Park Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218

Description of Request: I have secured \$722,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Surface Transportation Priorities account for the North Access Road at Jacksonville International Airport.

This project links I-295 with the Air Cargo and Passenger Terminals at the Jacksonville International Airport (JIA). The proposed project will complete the linkage for truck traffic southbound on I-95, allowing this traffic to enter the Air Cargo Terminal area without conflict with the primary passenger route. Completion of this project will increase Jacksonville International Airport's capacity and decrease the number of traffic delays. JIA serves the air transportation needs of northeast Florida and Southern Georgia.

The State/Local share of this project is 20%; the Florida Department of Transportation along with the Jacksonville Aviation Authority is in possession of the required matching funds for the project and is committed to their financial obligation for completion of the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Airport Improvements Program

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Aviation Authority

Address of Receiving Entity: 14201 Pecan Park Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218

Description of Request: I have secured \$722,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Airport Improvements Program account for the Cecil Field, Northeast Apron and Taxiways, FL.

The project is both AIP and MAP (Military Airport Program) eligible. The project will open new areas of the airport east of the existing runway for new economic development and job creation. JAA has currently redeveloped all existing facilities the JAA received from the U.S. Navy when the base was closed under BRAC.

The project consists of the 2000 foot parallel Taxiway Echo east of existing Runway 18L/36R and the 500 foot Taxiway A-1 connector, along with the 120,000 square foot apron.

The Jacksonville Aviation Authority is in possession of the required matching funds for the project and is committed to their financial obligation for completion of the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Buses and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Transportation Authority

Address of Receiving Entity: 100 North Myrtle Avenue Jacksonville, FL 32204

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Buses and Bus Facilities account for Design, Acquisition of ROW, and Construction of the Regional Intermodal Terminal Center, Jacksonville, FL.

The Florida Department of Transportation and Jacksonville Transportation Authority are funding the preliminary design of a full regional multi-modal transportation center near Downtown Jacksonville.

This facility will serve rail, bus, rapid transit the existing Skyway system, intercity bus, parking, pedestrian, parking, and bike modes. The configuration is being designed to promote Transit Oriented Development in support of the City's Master Plan. Funding is requested to complete design, acquisition of property, and construction. Much of the property is already owned by the transportation agencies. This effort will complete design and critical Right-of-way for the second phase and assist in construction activities.

The State/Local share of this project is 20%; total funds available for matching are at least \$3.8 million.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Capital Investment Grants

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Transportation Authority

Address of Receiving Entity: 100 North Myrtle Avenue Jacksonville, FL 32204

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,280,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Capital Investment Grants account for JTA BRT System, Jacksonville, FL.

This funding will provide for design of portions of an approved BRT corridor including bus lanes, critical right-of-way, signal priority, transit stations, access connections, and communications. Local funds of \$100 million are available for right of way matching. The RTS project includes dedicated bus lanes, rapid transit stations, signal priority and intermodal connections. The project is scheduled to be operational by mid-2011. The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) was selected in 2006.

The total program cost for building the complete JTA BRT system, with multiple corridors, is estimated to be \$395 million with local funding of \$197 million. Currently, with \$12.5 million in local funding, the JTA is completing Alternative Analysis and EA on this Bus Rapid Transit based system which is part of the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, Cost Feasible Plan.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Ferry Boats and Terminal Facilities

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Jacksonville Port Authority

Address of Receiving Entity: 2831 Talleyrand Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32206

Description of Request: I have secured \$712,500 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Ferry Boats and Terminal Facilities account for the Mayport Ferry Ramp and Dock Rehabilitation Jacksonville, FL.

The Mayport Ferry, which has been in continuous operation since 1948 and is a part of State Road A1A, requires significant repairs and maintenance. The Jacksonville Port Authority has acquired the ferry system from the City of Jacksonville and is the responsible party for all regular operation and maintenance and repairs. Specifically, funding would be used to rehabilitate the present ferry dock ramp on both sides of the St. Johns River. The Mayport Ferry connects the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve and the Mayport Village.

The State/Local share is 20%; the Jacksonville Port Authority is in possession of the required matching funds and is committed to their financial obligation in order to complete the project.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009

Account: Interstate Maintenance Discretionary

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Florida Department of Transportation

Address of Receiving Entity: 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,805,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Interstate Maintenance Discretionary account for the I-95 Interchange with SR 202 (Butler Blvd), Jacksonville, FL.

I-95 is one of the nation's most significant north-south interstates and SR 202, Butler Boulevard is a major east-west 6-lane divided regional highway serving development and evacuation. Funding will supplement local funds to advance design on the complete intersection. A first phase is being constructed

totally with local funds. Completion of this interchange between Interstate 95 and SR 202 is critically needed to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety and capacity.

The State/Local share is 50% of the total project cost; the Jacksonville Transportation Authority is in possession of the required matching funds and is committed to their financial obligation in order to complete the project.

TRIBUTE TO NELL SOTO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a loving mother, adoring grandmother and great-grandmother, passionate lawmaker and cherished friend, Nell Soto.

Working in the citrus groves as a child during the Depression, Nell eventually grew up to become influential and well-respected in the California Legislature. A sixth-generation Pomona resident, her passion for positive change and betterment of the community began early on in her life. Walking precincts as early as 1948 to help elect President Truman, she eventually became a pioneer of Latino political activism during the 1950s and 1960s. Actively involved in supporting the rights of farm workers, she walked the streets of Delano, California with Cesar Chavez. She also played an active role in the anti-war movement of the 1960s, including helping Senator Bobby Kennedy win the California primary. These are only a small sample of the impressive events she was a part of and one of the many reasons as to why she became an inspiring role model to us all.

Nell's fight for change carried on into politics where she helped elect her husband, Phil Soto, to the California Assembly in 1962. Nell herself was first elected to office in 1987 as a Pomona City Councilmember, serving for twelve years and becoming a prominent figure in the community. In 1993, she was appointed to the South Coast Management Quality District board and truly became aware of the growing concern of the environmental hazards that were affecting the community. This is where she first made her true mark as a champion of environmental protection. Concerned by the increasing rise of pollution in the Pomona area, she recognized how this was especially affecting all of the hardworking people in fields. Understanding that they were constantly being exposed to these toxins, she continued to push for greater reform.

Only a year after the death of her husband in 1997, she was elected to the California State Assembly. However, shortly thereafter, she replaced me in the State Senate when I left to become a Congressman in 1998 and then returned to the State Assembly in 2006 after her Senate term limits expired. Bringing her determination to create a better life for the people in her community, she formed a task force in the State Senate to help water districts in Fontana, Rialto and Colton address perchlorate contamination of groundwater, an issue that is very dear to my heart. Nell was instrumental in helping deliver \$20 million in federal funding to the Inland Empire to buy replacement water.

Nell always stood up to fight for the poor, the undeserved, and for the community as a whole. She was a forceful voice for Latinos everywhere, making sure our community and its issues were heard. In addition to believing in the protection of the environment, Nell was also a fierce advocate for issues related to education, housing, public safety and transportation. Always prioritizing children and families at the top of her agenda, she helped establish legislation to create safer school routes for children and get parents more involved in their children's education. In addition, Nell was instrumental in securing 5000 new jobs by helping turn the General Dynamics plant in Pomona into a furniture plant, as well as helping to secure \$22.5 million for the Pomona Metro Link and Transit System. She was also responsible for helping secure \$5 million from the state budget for numerous parks and community centers within her district.

I have always been grateful for Nell's friendship, a woman who has always been an inspiration to my family and I. She always supported me, from the time I entered the Board of Trustees, to when I served in the State Assembly, State Senate and still as I came here to serve as a Member of Congress. I thank her for always making a point of attending one of my events or at least sending a representative if she couldn't come herself. I know I am not alone when I say that I have lost a truly amazing friend, one who will be remembered for her hard work, true commitment to family and tireless efforts to better her community.

I am proud to have known a woman who was so loved by all of her family and friends. Nell is survived by her children, Philip Jr., Michael, Patrick, Anna and Tom, as well as her eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

I would like to express my greatest sympathies for her family's loss. Let us take a moment to remember this great woman and her admirable dedication to instilling positive change and leading an exemplary life, one whose footsteps we all hope to follow. The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara and children Councilman Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie and Jennifer and I are with her family at this time.

God bless Nell Soto for love of God, country and mankind.

IN HONOR OF JOHN AND JOAN MULLEN

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Irish American Business Chamber & Network, proud Irish Americans everywhere and especially the residents of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in acknowledging the business skills, compassion and philanthropy of John and Joan Mullen.

Every Member of Congress receives considerable correspondence especially when the nation is in difficulty. I have come to appreciate first hand the intelligence and vision of John Mullen. At the peak of the energy crisis he drafted a precise, informative and creative assessment of the causes of the crisis and co-

gent ideas for its resolution. Of the many thousands of letters, phone calls and e-mails, his correspondence remains in a prominent place in my office and I look forward to working with him on the energy crisis and other pressing national matters throughout my tenure in Congress.

I should have expected as much from a man who has served his country in the armed forces, worked his way through college, and had the vision and determination to marry his remarkable wife Joan. Together they have raised four accomplished children: Tim, Jeffery, Matthew, and Janice. Madam Speaker, by dint of hard work, a faith centered life and love for one another, the Mullen family epitomizes all that is right in the United States, Ireland and the world. I ask that at this moment this chamber joins me in wishing John and Joan Mullen continued success, fair winds and following seas for many years to come.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1105, the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. This bill completes Congress' work funding essential government services for 2009 and invests in important priorities to get our economy back on track. H.R. 1105 provides for the needs of North Carolina's most vulnerable citizens and will help our State make the investments it needs to make for a brighter future.

As the former superintendent of schools in North Carolina, I am particularly pleased that this bill continues our commitment to educational opportunities for all Americans. Economists tell us that strategic investments in education are one of the best ways to help America become more productive and competitive. This bill builds on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support state and local community efforts to improve schools, and on the efforts of individuals and families to provide a better life for their children. H.R. 1105 provides \$66.5 billion for the Department of Education, a 7 percent increase over last year. In these times when state budgets are stretched to the limit, it increases the federal share of special education costs and increases Title I grants for disadvantaged students to ensure our local communities are able to continue to help our most vulnerable students. It provides increases to student financial aid to help 1.4 million students go to school, and helps 6.9 million families pay for college with an increase in the maximum Pell Grant to \$4,360. It provides additional funding for Head Start, gives child care assistance to 11,000 more children, and provides 1.7 million with quality afterschool services that supplement their school activities. These are fundamental investments that provide the key to the future for our nation's children.

This bill makes many other critical investments to address our immediate needs while laying the foundation for our long-term prosperity. H.R. 1105 provides \$15.3 billion for the Labor Department, providing critical job training, unemployment, and workforce protection

services to our working families. It appropriates a total of \$496 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, including critical support for Medicare and Medicaid. It includes \$108 billion for the Department of Agriculture, including a 15 percent increase in funding for rural development. It appropriates \$57.9 billion for Commerce, Justice, and the science agencies, including a 16 percent increase for state and local law enforcement activities. By improving support for research and development at our nation's universities, federal laboratories, and small business incubators, funding in H.R. 1105 creates jobs and contributes to U.S. competitiveness. Finally, this bill invests in energy security with a 12 percent increase in funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives, which will help us reduce our dependence on foreign fuel sources.

This bill is not just about spending. H.R. 1105 also cuts and eliminates government programs that are not working, and provides accountability and oversight through improvements in regulatory agencies. In these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever that we wisely invest the tax dollars that have been entrusted to us, and this bill is a sound investment in our future.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a solemn duty to pass a funding bill that honors the values of the American people. By addressing America's domestic needs, providing for our foreign obligations, and investing in the future, H.R. 1105 reflects these values. I support H.R. 1105, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN BROGAN, RECIPIENT OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2009 FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. John Brogan, of Exeter, Pennsylvania, who was selected by the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to receive their 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Brogan graduated from Exeter High School in 1946 and joined the United States Navy where he served on a minesweeper from 1946 to 1948.

Mr. Brogan returned home following his military service to work in his father's men's clothing store, Sime Brogan's. He took over the operation of the family business in 1951 upon the death of his father. He continued to operate the business until his retirement in 1988.

Mr. Brogan is active in many organizations to which he belongs. These organizations include the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Exeter Lions Club, the American Legion, Post 833; Italian American Association; John F. Kennedy Council No. 372, Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree and the Naval Mine Warfare Association.

He is a member of American Federation of Musicians, Local 140, and he is the manager and musician for the Cino Paci Band.

He is a member of St. Cecelia's Church in Exeter where he is a member of the men's club. He also sings in the church choir.

Despite his retirement, Mr. Brogan still holds two part-time jobs with the Gubbiotti Funeral Home and Cefalo and Associates Law Firm.

Mr. Brogan and his wife, Louise, have three children: Marguerita Mutarelli, John Simon and Michael; three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Brogan on the occasion of this auspicious honor. Mr. Brogan's deep commitment to his family and his community has improved the quality of life for so many and has served as an example for others to emulate.

MILES DAVIS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

MR. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest jazz visionaries of our time, Miles Davis. Today is the 50th anniversary of his definitive album, *Kind of Blue*, and it is an occasion to recognize and celebrate his legendary mark on music. Born in 1926, Miles Davis took up the trumpet at age 13. Two years later, Davis joined the Musicians' Union and by age 19, had landed a contract with Capitol Records, playing in a combo led by alto saxophonist Charlie Parker.

Many would say that examining Miles Davis's recording career is to examine the history of jazz from the mid-'40s to early '90s. From his initial recordings, which displayed a subtle, yet challenging style of "cool jazz", Davis went on to change the course of jazz history in recording a new stylistic approach, known as modal jazz, on his 1959 album, *Kind of Blue*. This album is perhaps the most celebrated jazz album in history. It hit quadruple platinum in sales, was ranked number 12 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time, and the musicians who participated are considered among the greatest jazz artists of the last century.

Hardly content, Davis continued to experiment and innovate in producing such timeless and influential albums as *Sketches of Spain*, *E.S.P.*, *Miles Smiles* and *Nefertiti*. As music progressed throughout the decades, so did Miles Davis. In the latter half of the century, Davis expanded his repertoire to include free jazz and elements of rock music, and extended his appeal far beyond the classic jazz audience.

Miles Davis once said, "The way you change and help music is by tryin' to invent new ways to play." Indeed, Davis brought innovation to jazz for nearly fifty years and stayed at the cusp of music's evolution. Recognizing his contributions to music, Miles Davis is now a part of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the St. Louis Walk of Fame and Down Beat's Jazz Hall of Fame. Madam Speaker, for his many achievements and his lasting example to musicians worldwide, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Kind of Blue*, to honor and to thank Miles Davis for the legacy he has left to art.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks received as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Combined Sewer Separation Amount: \$650,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: City of Omaha, Nebraska—Public Works Department 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183

Description of earmark: To be used for the design and construction of improvements to portions of the City's combined sewer system. These projects will allow the City of Omaha to reduce the amount of sewage overflowing to receiving streams. The Combined Sewer Overflow Controls project is consistent with the latest requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to achieve the goal of improved water quality in the United States. The NDEQ has issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CSO Permit to the City of Omaha for its regional wastewater treatment system. A Consent Order with NDEQ requires Omaha to implement a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to reduce the impact of wastewater discharges on the water quality of the Missouri River and the Papillion Creek. Specific activities for 2009 include: the Webster Street storm sewer extension, a new South Omaha force main sewer, and other projects to be determined. The combined sewer system is restricted to the eastern portion of the City of Omaha and serves approximately 130,000 people. Wet weather conditions result in discharge of raw sewage into the environment and residents' basements. Upon completion, the planned projects will reduce the CSO volume to the Missouri River; improve the water quality and the community's public health. Based on critical necessity for the design and construction of the sewer overflow improvements, the City is requesting this federal funding.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games Amount: \$238,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games 8801 F Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127.

Description of earmark: Money to be used to assist in funding the Special Olympics' Second USA National Games in 2010. The money will be spent on logistics, security, transportation, housing and meals for athletes. The Special Olympics has previously been funded by the U.S. Congress and the nation has an

interest in developing all of our human capital, an opportunity which the Special Olympics USA National Games provides.

Name of the Requesting Member: LEE TERRY

The bill number: H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: UNMC Environmental Health Informatics Data Base

Amount: \$238,000

The legal name and address of requesting entity: UNMC 987680 Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE 68198

Description of earmark: Money will be used to create a Midwest Health Informatics database to assess environmental influences on the development of diseases by collecting health information from 50,000 Midwesterners. This database would be the first research cohort in the Midwest to study the relationship between rural populations, the environment, and disease development. This project could reveal environmental factors responsible for birth defects or lymphoma, a cancer with high incidence in Nebraska. The data will provide valuable information on the factors influencing development of deadly diseases like cancer.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO ENCOURAGE AND EXPAND THE USE OF DEPENDENT CARE FLEXIBLE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (FSA)

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to encourage and expand the use of Dependent Care Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

Millions of people rely on child care to be able to work, and increasingly, to look for work, while others are responsible for older parents or disabled family members. Child and dependent care is a critical issue and a large expense for many American families.

Across the country, annual prices for full-time child and dependent care have increased dramatically. The average price for full-time care for a toddler is approximately \$7,000 according to the National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies—infants cost even more. My state of Wisconsin is among the highest, with an average cost of \$12,000. Meanwhile, the out-of-pocket cost of caring for an aging parent or spouse can easily exceed \$6,000 a year.

To lighten the financial burden for working individuals, Congress created the Dependent Care FSA. A Dependent Care FSA enables individuals to put aside a set amount of money each year to help pay for eligible dependent care expenses for children under the age of 13, or others who can be claimed as a dependent, including a parent or spouse. The money set-aside is pretax, thus reducing a person's taxable income.

My legislation will improve the Dependent Care FSA by increasing the exclusion amount to \$7,500 for families and indexing it to inflation on an annual basis. Increasing this amount to reflect the changing times will provide more financial relief to parents raising children and/or caring for adults. The legisla-

tion would also allow individuals to roll over any unused funds to the following year. Under current law, each household is permitted to set aside up to \$5,000 annually pre-taxed. The \$5,000 limit has been in effect since 1986, even though the cost of care has risen significantly since then.

I am pleased that employers are increasingly recognizing the need to address dependent care issues in the workplace by offering Dependent Care FSAs. It is my hope that Congress will raise the current Dependent Care FSA limit to better reflect the changing workforce and help individuals plan and pay for the care they need at home as they earn a living.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE NAPLES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Naples Toastmasters Club upon the celebration of their 50th anniversary.

Anyone who has ever had to give a speech in front of an audience knows what a tense and sometimes nerve-racking experience it can be. Fortunately, Toastmasters International and its chapters across the globe have been helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience for over 80 years.

The Naples Toastmasters Club in Naples, Florida provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment for members to develop their communication and leadership skills. Increasingly, these skills have become vital to success in the classroom, in the workplace, and in life. Perhaps even more importantly, Toastmasters helps people increase their self-confidence and allows them to reach their professional and personal goals.

The members of the Naples Toastmasters Club are some of the most giving and productive members of our community. They continue to empower a new generation of Southwest Floridians to develop the leadership and communication skills needed to make significant contributions to our community.

Madam Speaker, the Naples Toastmasters Club's enthusiasm and passion for serving our community is inspiring, and their efforts have helped to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent the members of the Naples Toastmasters Club in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEACE CORPS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the Peace Corps and Peace Corps Volunteers as we celebrate the Peace Corps's 48th anniversary on March 1, 2009. From its beginnings under President John F. Kennedy

until now, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grassroots level in the developing world.

As in all things, the strength of the Peace Corps is in its people—its volunteers. Volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education and health care.

In fact, Danny and Shirley Sherrod from my district just retired from their careers and have volunteered to spend the next two years serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in Panama. Danny and Shirley said that their conversations with other volunteers made a huge impact on their lives, so they are using this new time out of retirement to volunteer. This is but one example of the selfless dedication that people like Danny and Shirley Sherrod of Fort Worth, TX, commit to bringing to the Peace Corps and to our world.

Through Peace Corps service, volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive invaluable training that enables them to succeed in different cultural settings. Returning volunteers often use these skills and experiences to pursue careers in the Federal Government and in the Foreign Service.

As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the State-Foreign Operations, I am proud that this Subcommittee provides the funding and the resources needed to continue the good work that the Peace Corps is doing around the world.

This week, during the National Peace Corps Week, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

CELEBRATING THE DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Delaware and Raritan Canal upon its 175th Anniversary Celebration. This year New Jersey towns and community groups along the canal will celebrate the rich contributions of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and I wholeheartedly join them.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal, which spans more than 66 miles across the State of New Jersey, has an important place in New Jersey history, and provides scenic and recreational facilities that New Jersey families enjoy today.

In our state's early history, the Delaware and Raritan Canal provided a significant route for the movement of commerce and people. As part of the Intracoastal Waterway, the canal also played an important role of connecting towns and people from Florida to New England.

All along the route, canal boats delivered Pennsylvania anthracite coal to factories, homes, and coal yards in New Jersey, New York harbor, and points north and south. They brought farm products to market; carried store-

bought goods to residents in the interior; delivered raw materials to the factories; and distributed finished products to outlets throughout the region. Businesses along the canal included food packing companies, rubber reclaiming plants, distilleries, coal yards, quarries, lumberyards, pharmaceuticals, terra cotta, wallpaper manufacturers, farms and many more.

According to canal historians, 1866 was the canal's peak year, when almost three million tons of cargo were shipped through the waterway—more tonnage than was carried in any single year on the much longer and more famous Erie Canal.

During three wars, the Civil War, World War I and World War II, the Delaware and Raritan Canal carried men and materials between the ports of New York and Philadelphia.

In 1973, several coalitions in New Jersey sought and secured a place on the National Register of Historic Places for the Delaware and Raritan Canal. One year later, the canal became the centerpiece of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. Since then, the Canal Society of New Jersey and the D&R Canal Watch have worked tirelessly to preserve and protect the canal's rich history for generations to come.

Today the Delaware and Raritan Canal serves New Jerseyans as a tranquil ribbon of green, connecting our historic past with recreational opportunities that are enjoyed by so many.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELIJAH PAT LARKINS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of my dear friend and a widely-respected leader, the Honorable Elijah Pat Larkins, who died February 14, 2009 after losing a 16-month battle with brain cancer. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this most difficult time. I hope that Pat's family takes comfort in knowing that, in his over 66 years on this earth, he had a profound impact on those around him, making significant contributions to the lives of so many Floridians.

Pat had an affinity with South Florida that was developed over a lifetime. He was born in Pompano Beach in 1942, and graduated from Blanche Ely High School in 1960. In 1962 he left Tennessee State University without graduating to pursue a career as a housing director for the local community action agency. In 1969, he was one of only two Florida recipients of a Ford Foundation fellowship to attend the National Housing Institute in Washington, DC. He worked in Illinois for a brief period immediately following his certification by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a housing development specialist. Returning to Florida, Pat created the Broward County Minority Builders Coalition and was a director of his own not-for-profit business, Malar Construction Inc. in Ft. Lauderdale.

Madam Speaker, Pat had a long career in public service, and it is through this aspect of his life that he has had the greatest impact on

the lives of so many in South Florida. He was the first chairperson of the City of Pompano Beach Community Development Committee. In 1982, he was the second African-American elected to the Pompano Beach City Commission. He was just the eighth African-American local elected official in Broward County and served 19 consecutive years as city commissioner. In that time, he served a record seven terms as mayor, the first African American to hold this post, and three terms as vice-mayor. He also served an unprecedented 14 consecutive years on the Broward County Planning Council and was the first African-American chair of that body. After an unsuccessful run for Broward County Commission in 2001, Pat Larkins was reelected to the Pompano Beach City Commission in 2003 where he served as vice-mayor.

I am sure that my colleagues would agree that this is a remarkable list of achievements. Importantly, however, Pat was known not only for the offices that he held but the means by which he discharged his duties in those offices. Pat was a man of uncompromising integrity. He possessed an incredible generosity of spirit, and was a mentor to those around him. Pat has been referred to as the dean of Broward black elected officials because of his remarkable leadership and role as one of the founders of that group. He knew his constituents astoundingly well, and would often complain in jest that he was going broke buying flowers for funerals.

Pat was also recognized throughout the State as a leader and spokesperson for minority involvement in government and business. During his time as mayor of Pompano Beach, the city hired the first black fire chief and first black city clerk in Broward County. Pat initiated the city ordinance to promote minority small business concerns, and along with two others, helped to create the first minority business enterprise program for Broward County government. His concern for equality had developed from an early age; as a student at Blanche Ely, where he was voted to lead his class from 5th through 12th grades, he led a student boycott of classes when an annual gathering of the county's three black high schools was canceled.

In addition to his many professional achievements, Pat Larkins took an active role in countless public service, social, and religious organizations. He was a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), served on the Broward County Boys and Girls Club corporate board, the Juvenile Justice Intensive Halfway House, and the Florida black caucus local elected officials, and was a longtime member of Hopewell Baptist Church. He was a founding member of the Urban League board, as well as a leader in the Superintendents' Commission on Public Education, National Black Mayors' Conference, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Madam Speaker, through all of these roles, Pat had an indelible impact on the well-being of his community. He made profound contributions in the area of housing, working tirelessly to ensure safe and adequate housing was available to all. Under his leadership, Pompano Beach recently demolished a 140-home development that had been rundown and falling apart and relocated the owners to a modern development of affordable homes on an even swap arrangement at a considerable

cost savings to the city. Over the past 5 years, he led the city in providing financial and other assistance that has resulted in the erection of more than 800 affordable multifamily units.

Madam Speaker, although Pat's life has come to an end, his legacy will live on for generations to come. He will be remembered for his patience and generosity, characteristics which enabled him to improve the lives of all those who knew him. Pat was my friend of 46 years, he was a Renaissance man and I am proud and fortunate to have known him.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J.
KEELER, 2009 HONOREE OF THE
SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDLY
SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF
LACKAWANNA COUNTY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to James J. Keeler, of Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County, who was selected to receive the prestigious "President's Award" from the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County for the year 2009.

Mr. Keeler has proudly and successfully served the people of Lackawanna County for many years in a wide variety of ways.

He has served as administrator of the Social Security Administration. He was the first chairman of the Lackawanna County Multi-Purpose Stadium Authority. And he has been a political science instructor at Marywood University and at the University of Scranton.

A native of the City of Scranton, Mr. Keeler began his career in Harrisburg in 1969 as an assistant to then Auditor General Robert P. Casey.

He joined the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1971 as a legislative analyst and served on the task force that implemented the Supplemental Security Income, SSI, program. He also worked in Washington DC on Capitol Hill at the Congressional Research Service.

In 1976, Mr. Keeler and his wife, the former Elaine O'Malley, of Scranton, returned to Lackawanna County where they raised their three children: Jimmy, Ellen and Paul in Clarks Summit.

In 1991, Mr. Keeler was recognized by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services with a national Honor Award for an innovative outreach program that found over 200 low income aged and disabled Lackawanna County residents who were eligible for the SSI program.

Mr. Keeler is the author of "Our Team! Insights From the Publicly Owned Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons," a book based on his doctoral dissertation at the University of Southern California's School of Public Administration.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Keeler for his many years of service to the Lackawanna County community. His commitment to public service has vastly improved the quality of life for many throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and, for that, Mr. Keeler has earned our respect and admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at a U.S. Navy change of command ceremony, I regret that I could not cast recorded votes for roll Nos. 80–85. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll Nos. 80, 81, 82, 84, and 85, and “no” on roll No. 83.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE H.
WILLIAMSON, CHIEF DEPUTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. DAVID E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George H. Williamson who is retiring after 31 years of service as a criminal prosecutor. George was my Chief Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division during the eight years that I was privileged to serve the citizens of California.

When you think of George Williamson, the first thing which comes to mind is that he is a “lawyer’s lawyer.” Were Black’s Law Dictionary to put pictures next to their definitions, you would find a picture of George next to the definition of “criminal prosecutor.” What else could you say about a man who has tried over 70 homicide cases? It is not surprising that he was named “Prosecutor of the Year” by the California District Attorneys Association and received the “Outstanding Advocacy Award” from the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation. The National District Attorneys Association inducted George into the “Home Run Hitter’s Club” in recognition of his stature as one of the finest litigators in the United States. He was meticulous in his legal preparation, persuasive in his courtroom presentation and unequivocally ethical in his dealings with all parties.

In his work supervising our Criminal Division in the California Department of Justice, George was not only responsible for managing 450 attorneys and staff, but he personally handled major case litigation as well. In this regard, he was responsible for one of the most significant public corruption cases in California history, where he obtained a conviction against the former California Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Let me also say that one of the most admirable leadership qualities displayed by George was his role in mentoring young lawyers in the California Department of Justice. Although George may be retiring, he leaves behind him a legacy of fine lawyers who include District Attorneys within their ranks.

It was an honor to work with George H. Williamson during my tenure as Attorney General. He will always have my friendship and respect, and I wish him the best with his endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BENNIE GOODEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Bennie Gooden, a dedicated civil servant who contributed so much to the lives of others in Mississippi. His dedication to public service began with his tenure as a teacher in Coahoma Agricultural High School and later Dean of Men at Coahoma Community College. Afterward, he transitioned to being the first Project Director for the HeadStart Program in Coahoma and Tunica Counties.

Madam Speaker, not only did Bennie serve in the arena of education, but he was an advocate of affordable housing for all. In 1969, he led the Chapel Hill Baptist Church in the ownership and development of a 100-unit housing development, Chapel Hill Heights. He was a Certified Real Estate Manager, CREM, and managed multi-family housing units throughout the Southeast in a career which spanned 35 years. One can understand why his name, particularly in the Mississippi Delta, is synonymous with “housing.”

Madam Speaker, Bennie amassed many honors and was involved with an impressive list of religious, civic and community endeavors in his life, which include: being a member of the Coahoma County Branch NAACP for more than 50 years, past President of the Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center, Inc., he served on the Advisory Board of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Institute for the Building Sciences, and he received the Medgar Evers Award for Outstanding Civic Community Leadership, and the Coahoma County Branch NAACP Spirit and Freedom Award.

Without Bennie Gooden’s support, I would not be in the position I am today. Madam Speaker, I’m grateful for his presence in my life and the lives of Mississippians all around our great state.

RECOGNIZING THE PROFESSIONAL
EXCELLENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES TRANSPORTATION COM-
MAND AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE MILITARY AND CIVIL-
IANS WHO SERVE ON TRAVIS
AIR FORCE BASE

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard work, and professionalism of General McNabb and the fine men and women of the United States Transportation Command. Their accomplishments are unmatched as they delivered 2 million passengers, 3 million short tons of cargo, and nearly one and a half billion gallons of fuel worldwide in order to meet Department of Defense needs.

I am also proud to include the patriotism and total dedication to excellence exhibited by

the military and civilian members of my district who played a vital role in these accomplishments as they performed their duties on Travis Air Force Base.

As you know, Travis Air Force Base is the largest Air Mobility base in the country and serves as the principal staging area for the Pacific Theater. As such, Travis plays an invaluable strategic role in our airlift programs.

With President Obama’s decision to increase military operations in Afghanistan, Travis’ role will increase in prominence. Travis is host to the 615th Contingency Response Wing and is also home to the David Grant Medical Center which is the primary lead for the Craig Joint Theater Hospital at Bagram Air Force Base.

Since the 2005 Mobility Capability Study, Department of Defense Officials have not been able to agree on the baseline inventory requirements for the C–17. I have long been an advocate of keeping the production line open to address future requirements and have supported supplemental appropriations to reach the baseline levels for this multi-role platform required by the Air Force and Transportation Command for mission accomplishment.

I look forward to working hard in this Congress to provide our brave men and women with the tools they need to continue to keep our nation secure while also being able to respond to national emergencies.

FREEDOM FOR OMAURIS RONDON
RIVERO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Omauris Rondon Rivero, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

The Cuban people continue to suffer a repression unprecedented in the history of our hemisphere. For 50 years Fidel and Raul Castro have imposed a brutal, murderous and unscrupulous totalitarian tyranny on the Cuban people.

Last May, Mr. Rondon was thrown into a dungeon after being accused of “defamation of government institutions, heroes and martyrs” by the dictatorship. It is unclear what Mr. Rondon had said, but the dictatorship sends people to the gulag even for the slightest of “verbal transgressions.”

Mr. Rondon is not known to be a member of any human rights group, opposition political party or independent civil society organization. But he said something that bothered the criminal thugs who oppress the Cuban people. He was “sentenced” to a year in the gulag. Reports from within the political prisons have pointed out that Mr. Rondon has suffered continuous and serious beatings inside the degrading gulag where he is locked up. In totalitarian Cuba the cries of the tortured are never heard; we can only imagine the horrors Omauris Rondon is being subjected to.

Thousands, like Mr. Rondon, languish in Cuban dungeons simply for their support of freedom, democracy and the Rule of Law, or for other acts that are considered criminal only

by a murderous and demented totalitarian tyranny such as the Castros' (actions like "attempting to leave the country without permission").

While countless thousands of Cubans suffer in the tyranny's infernal gulag, tourists visit the island's "delights", enjoying the regime's apartheid tourism system and partaking of the child prostitution promoted by the Castros' regime. Heads of State and government, foreign ministers and other "dignitaries" flock to totalitarian Cuba, partaking in the regime's sponsored "delights", and bringing ignominy to the nations they allegedly represent.

But, Madam Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues of the real Cuba. I rise to remind my colleagues that Omauris Rondon Rivero, and thousands of others who suffer in the Castros' gulag, exist. That they represent the best of the Cuban nation. That they represent the future of Cuba, a free and democratic Cuba. And I rise to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Omauris Rondon Rivero and all the political prisoners in the nightmare that is totalitarian Cuba.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKING FAMILIES' FLEXI- BILITY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Working Families' Flexibility Act, which will ensure that working Americans can ask their employer for modified schedules so they can balance the demands of their jobs and their home life.

Modeled on successful legislation adopted in the United Kingdom, the legislation would give employees a right to request modification of their hours, schedule, or work location. It would require employers to seriously consider all such requests in a timely manner, and provide an explanation for requests that are denied. The bill also includes job protection for employees who make flexibility requests. Small businesses would be exempt from this bill, and the Department of Labor would be called upon to develop regulations for the flex-time process.

This bill will raise awareness of the rising need for flexible work schedules, and will protect employees who are nervous about requesting a change in schedule. Called the "soft-touch" law in the UK, it would not place undue burden on businesses, it only asks that they evaluate these requests and provide a response explaining their decision, whatever it is. Adopting a flexible workplace has been shown to reduce turnover, which helps employers cut costs and retain valuable employees. In the UK, over 80 percent of requests have been approved and over 80 percent of employers report no adverse effect from the legislation.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

We are all painfully aware that our nation is in a deep economic recession. The grim numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics begin to tell the story. For months the unemployment rate has been rising and in January nearly 600,000 jobs were lost. This is the highest number of jobs lost in a one-month period since 1974. It is estimated that if joblessness continues at the same rate, unemployment rates will be in the double digits by summer and the highest unemployment level since the Great Depression.

Economists on both sides of the aisle agree that we need swift and robust action to counter this troubling downturn. By making needed investments in areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education H.R. 1 will address rising joblessness by creating jobs in areas where investment will make a long-term impact. In my home state of California it is expected that the measure will create or save close to 400,000 jobs.

As a healthcare advocate I am particularly pleased that the bill also provides \$1 billion to restore state and local health department jobs that will be lost in the next year due to budget cuts. Not only will this funding keep thousands of people employed, it will also ensure that the public continues to receive critical prevention and wellness programs that these employees provide. Moreover, it is essential that we ensure the stability of our public health infrastructure which is critical to national and local responses to natural or man-made catastrophes.

I am also gratified that the bill includes funding to address critical health care workforce shortages. At a time when millions of Americans are unemployed, there are well over 140,000 unfilled registered nursing jobs in our hospitals, nursing homes and community health centers. To address this need the bill includes \$500 million for nurse training.

The bill also allows governors to spend up to \$10 billion for school modernization. The funding provided for school renovation and repair is essential to address the nation's crumbling education infrastructure. Our nation's students and teachers deserve to learn and work in buildings that are not crumbling around them.

There is no dispute that economic conditions will get worse before they get better. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an important step forward in reversing the course of the current recession. It will provide a desperately needed boost to our ailing economy, and will provide American families with a needed social safety net as they weather the worst of this economic crisis.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes to stabilize our economy and assist Americans impacted by this crisis.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Citrus Mutual

Address of Requesting Entity: Lakeland, FL 33802

Description of Request: I secured \$1,217,000 for the continuation of vital citrus canker research by the UF-IFAS, through the Cooperative State Research Extension and Education Service (CSREES), to improve technologies for treatment and detection, methods of movement and containment, and means to control and eliminate this devastating citrus disease.

In 2005, USDA-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) detected citrus greening in Florida. This is yet another severe citrus disease that must be addressed. USDA-APHIS and ARS are working in conjunction with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry (FDACS-DPI) and UF-IFAS to develop a joint citrus health production plan for an interim period, while the scientific community works to find disease resistance and/or a cure for these diseases. Research efforts will include management of citrus canker and greening to minimize tree mortality and yield loss in a cost effective manner, as well as the economic implications of these diseases in world citrus markets. This joint, coordinated research is not only imperative to Florida citrus, but also important to all U.S. citrus production.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services (HRSA) Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee

Address of Requesting Entity: 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243

Description of Request: I secured \$143,000 to address nursing shortages by supporting educational development at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus

Critical nursing shortages throughout the United States continue to grow as the population ages and the nursing workforce approaches retirement age. The University is in the initial stages of preparing for separate academic accreditation. Once this is achieved, their highest priority will be to establish a College of Nursing on the campus. With a nursing program in place we will be able to reach and educate the southern-most portions of Florida. The funds from this proposal will be spent to support the development of a teaching simulation laboratory (equipment and simulation models) on our campus, for equipping a video-conference classroom, and the development of web, on-site, and blended courses.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sarasota County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1660 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$500,000 for the Phillippi Creek Septic System.

Obsolete septic tanks are a source of wastewater pollution in Phillippi Creek, and thus, all of lower Sarasota Bay, along with its estuaries. The Phillippi Creek Septic Tank Replacement Program is underway to replace failing septic systems and connect approximately 15,000 low-income homes and businesses to central sewer in the Phillippi Creek Basin.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Manatee Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 5840 26th Street West, Bradenton FL 34207

Description of Request: I secured \$95,000 for a Medical Technology and Simulation Center at Manatee Community College (MCC).

Through state and private initiatives over many years, MCC has been able to secure funding to construct a Medical Technology and Simulation Center. What is now needed are resources to outfit the Center with the equipment to operate a functional teaching program and Community Health Clinic. The proposed expansion of MCC's nursing program will accommodate up to 48 new nursing students each year and help provide the community with additional health care services it requires. This investment in classroom and clinical infrastructure will allow the College to immediately expand its program in terms of both student enrollment and reach. Without additional funding the prohibitive costs associated with nursing programs would create an indefinite barrier to the College's ability to meet this community need.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Education—Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New College of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 5800 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, FL 34243

Description of Request: I secured \$95,000 for a Smart Library for New College in my district.

Libraries are no longer about books and journals, microfiche and card catalogs. The libraries of the future will deal with the business of information management. They are becoming centers for community research and civic engagement. New College of Florida is poised to engage and enhance the digital assets at the Jane Bancroft Cook Library, a joint-use facility for New College of Florida, the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee, Manatee Community College, and citizens in the Manatee and Sarasota communities. The Cook Library/Smart Library plan will include:

Creating a variety of digital collections open to students, faculty, staff, and the community;

Acquiring basic sets of digital images to enrich the curriculum (environmental studies, art history, music, history, anthropology, biology, math, physics, business, education, criminal justice, etc.) and for use in educational and community outreach;

Purchasing equipment to digitize, analyze, and archive images and video created for research and teaching purposes;

Managing a full complement of digital assets, including audio, video, internet and metadata;

Developing educational, public outreach programs and facilitating public forums;

Providing a variety of workstation (PC, Mac) to allow for ease of access by faculty/students/staff/public;

Establishing Smart Collaborative Spaces where groups can interact using the best technology available.

Located on the Sarasota-Manatee county border, Cook Library is strategically placed to be an information hub for all the higher education institutions and the citizens of the counties they serve.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT FEMIA

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Vincent Femia—a resident of my district in Upstate New York—for his outstanding achievements at the 2009 Special Olympic Winter World Games held in Boise, Idaho. Vincent played an integral role in helping Team USA capture a gold medal during the 4x1K freestyle cross-country relay. He also earned a silver medal for his performance in the 7.5K freestyle cross-country race, and a bronze medal in the 5K cross-country race.

At only 24 years old, Vincent has a long and distinguished history of participation in the Special Olympics, earning eight gold medals in Nordic skiing over the past 15 years. Since first taking to the slopes at the age of five, Vincent's stamina and strength have earned him the nickname, The Machine.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Vincent's accomplishments in the Special Olympic Games, and look forward to tracking his future success. Please join me in congratulating Vincent on this occasion.

IN HONOR OF SHOLEM ALEICHEM
AND TO CONGRATULATE
LIMMUND FSU

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of acclaimed Russian-Jewish writer and humorist Mr. Sholem Aleichem, whose 150th birthday was this past Monday, March 2, and to congratulate Limmund FSU on the events it is sponsoring this week in New York City, Tel Aviv, and Kiev to commemorate this momentous event.

Born as Sholem Rabinovitch on March 2, 1859 in Pereyaslav, Ukraine, Sholem

Aleichem showed his writing talents at a young age. In 1879, he began publishing stories in Hebrew. Just a few years later, in 1883, he began publishing stories in Yiddish and, because Yiddish was not considered by some appropriate for legitimate writing, he adopted his now famous pseudonym: Sholem Aleichem.

This was the beginning of a long and distinguished literary career, in which Sholem Aleichem wrote and published dozens of short stories, plays, and novels in Yiddish, Hebrew, and Russian. He is best known for his writing in Yiddish and his role as one of the pre-eminent Yiddish authors. His efforts, through his own works and his promotion of the writing of others, did as much as anyone to promote Yiddish as an art form.

His works were widely popular, as they were both meaningful and humorous with an ability to teach and entertain. They also reflected the real lives and problems of their readers. Through his work, Sholem Aleichem left behind a rich portrayal of Jewish life and culture in Eastern Europe and Russia at the turn of the century. In fact, it was his stories that were the inspiration for the popular musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. It is no wonder that he became known as the "Jewish Mark Twain."

Well after his death in New York City in 1916, his popularity continues to this day. His timeless works have been translated into many languages, including English, making accessible his unique literary talents to millions more. Monuments have been erected to him in Kiev and Moscow. And, in New York City, East 33rd Street, between Park Avenue and Madison Avenue, is named "Sholem Aleichem Place." It is only fitting that we pause on this, the occasion of his 150th birthday, to celebrate Sholem Aleichem and his contribution both to Jewish life and culture and to humanity as a whole.

Indeed, people will be remembering Sholem Aleichem all around the world thanks to the efforts of Limmund FSU. Limmund FSU is a volunteer organization whose goal is to help build bridges between Russian-speaking Jews and their Jewish history and culture. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Limmund FSU on the events it is sponsoring this week to honor Sholem Aleichem. It could not have picked a better person to honor and I want to thank everyone involved for their tremendous efforts.

SUPPORTING THE JAMES A.
LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE
CENTER

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I join my colleague from Illinois, Ms. BEAN, in introducing legislation to enhance the innovative health care resource sharing underway between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in North Chicago, Illinois.

Ten years ago the VA was trying to close the North Chicago VA hospital, claiming it was underutilized and that veterans could easily commute 40 or 50 miles into Chicago for treatment. At the same time, the Navy was planning to close its 40-year-old hospital at Great

Lakes that had earned a reputation for being "30 stories tall with 30 patients." Even though there were four brand-new, unused inpatient wards at the VA hospital a quarter-mile away, the federal government was preparing to spend \$180 million to replace an outdated military hospital and close a VA hospital with an increasing number of patients. This simply made no sense.

In 2001 I began urging the Navy and the VA to examine ways they can coordinate their efforts and share resources in North Chicago. After four years of intense work, and thanks in large part to the efforts of then-Navy Secretary Gordon England and then-Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Leo McKay, the two departments in 2005 agreed not only to share resources, but to fully integrate the two facilities. Last year, they announced that the joint facility would be named for a local hero, Captain Jim Lovell, hero of Apollo XIII.

This bold plan is now recognized as the model for future collaboration between the VA and DOD, and integration is well underway. They have already merged inpatient care, mental health, surgery and the emergency room. When the new facility opens in the summer of 2010, Navy and VA will fully integrate the two organizations by combining clinical and administrative operations.

In order to fully integrate the two institutions, though, a few statutory changes are required. This legislation would give the Defense Department and the VA the authority needed to open an integrated federal health care facility in 2010. The bill authorizes the departments to transfer property and personnel as needed and in a manner consistent with existing law governing transfers of civilian federal employees between agencies.

Our bill also extends the VA/DOD Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund until 2020 from its current expiration date of 2010. The daily operations at Lovell Hospital will be so integrated that it will be difficult to determine whose resources produced the care given, whether VA or DoD. This account is funded by both the VA and DOD, and both departments agree that it is the most appropriate mechanism to fund the joint facility and give its leadership the greatest flexibility to operate in a combined manner.

Finally, our legislation designates Lovell Hospital as a military treatment facility, a technical designation needed to prevent military retirees under the TRICARE system from being forced to make costly co-payments when they receive care at the joint facility. Given that the inpatient, surgical, mental health, and emergency services are already combined, thousands of TRICARE beneficiaries in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin are already subject to co-pays that should not come out of their pocket. The vision for Lovell Hospital is to provide care for active duty sailors, DOD beneficiaries, and veterans side-by-side in one fully integrated facility. The integration has been so successful, we need to update current law to recognize that Lovell Hospital serves both veterans and Navy personnel.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J. FLAHERTY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD FROM THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. James J. Flaherty, the 2009 recipient of the W. Francis Swingle Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for his many years of dedicated service to that organization.

Mr. Flaherty was born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania. He graduated from St. John's High School in 1960 and Penn State University in 1963.

Mr. Flaherty joined Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation's Scranton Division in July, 1963, as a draftsman in the engineering department. In July, 1972, he was promoted to Operations Manager and, in July of 1978, he was transferred to Chamberlain's New Bedford, Maine operation as Assistant General Manager.

In 1986, Mr. Flaherty was promoted to Vice President and General Manager of the New Bedford, Maine, operation. He served in that capacity until July, 1991, when the New Bedford operation ceased production and he relocated back to Scranton as Vice President and General Manager of that division. In 2003, Mr. Flaherty was named President of Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation. In July, 2006, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems acquired Chamberlain. Mr. Flaherty remained in Scranton as Vice President and General Manager.

Mr. Flaherty is a member of the ARMS Public Private Task Force Executive Advisory Committee and the Industrial Committee of Ammunition Producers. He is also past president of the board of directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center; serves on the board of directors of the local chapter of the Salvation Army; is a member of The Lions Club and was an elected member of the Moscow Borough Council.

In February, 2009, Mr. Flaherty was inducted into the Ancient Order of St. Barbara, the patron saint of the U.S. Army Field Artillery, for 45 years of service to our soldiers. A son of the late James and Jean Joyce Flaherty, he and his wife, Sheila, have two children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Flaherty on this auspicious occasion. His commitment to his family, his profession and his community has earned him widespread respect throughout the region.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN XINZHENG, CHINA

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate SIAS International University in Xinzheng, Henan Province, China on its 10th Anniversary as an institution of higher education.

Founded in 1999, SIAS International University is a new type of post-secondary experience striving to prepare students to be global citizens. Affiliated with Zhengzhou University and in cooperation with Fort Hays State University of Hays, Kansas, SIAS was designed to provide Chinese students with an educational experience that blends Chinese educational philosophies with western-style curriculum and techniques, offering students the skills needed to compete and prosper in our increasingly interconnected world.

Licensed by the Henan Provincial Education Commission, SIAS is the first Chinese institution permitted by the Chinese State Degree Office to offer core classes in Western Civilization, Sociology and Government, providing students the ability to explore new ways to think about business and liberal arts. SIAS International University is also the first solely American-owned University in Central China; thus, Chinese students earn both Chinese and American education degrees and are able to apply their skills within trans-national corporations and enterprises.

Fort Hays State University and all of Western Kansas benefit from this relationship. The university has seen an increase in the number of international students on campus which enriches the learning experiences for students, faculty, and administrators. Additionally, the community has benefitted from numerous programs that have been created to share music, art and culture with these international students.

The partnership between SIAS International University and Fort Hays State University is the perfect example of our world flattening—of east meeting west. Even the architecture on the SIAS campus, including the main administration building, symbolizes this marriage of cultures, with one side representing the Forbidden City in classical Chinese architecture, and the other modeled after our own United States Capitol Building. This western-inspired campus serves as an appropriate environment for a new way of thinking for the Chinese students and faculty.

The friendship between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China fosters an exchange of cultural richness and advances our mutual aspirations. The relationship between SIAS International University and Fort Hays State University is one part of this paradigm. Both China and America must work diligently to preserve this friendship and search for ways to recognize accomplishments when they are due. And today, recognition is due to SIAS International University for ten years of success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the Founder and Chairman of SIAS International University, Mr. Shawn

Chen, as well as President Li Haijun for their extraordinary work. Also, please help me recognize Fort Hays State University President Dr. Edward H. Hammond, Provost Dr. Larry Gould, Assistant Provost for Strategic Partnerships Cindy Elliott, and the many others who have help foster this relationship and contributed to ten years of remarkable results. It is my hope that SIAS International University can continue its success in enriching the lives of students and communities both in China and here in America for decades to come.

RECOGNIZING BEACON GROUP SW AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the AbilityOne Program, which in the last year, has helped more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have severe disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment. The Beacon Group SW implements this program in my district in Southern Arizona.

The AbilityOne Program, formerly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from community based non-profit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program gives Americans with disabilities opportunities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life. This program provides essential assistance to a segment of the population that has one of the highest levels of unemployment in our country.

I am proud to acknowledge the important work of the Beacon Group, which since 1952, has provided training and employment services to people with disabilities. The history and mission of the Beacon Group stands as a clear example of why this program is a winning proposition for all parties involved.

In the past year the Beacon Group employed over 25 individuals with severe disabilities through AbilityOne contracts. With the help of AbilityOne and other programs the Beacon Group served over 1,700 individuals and their families in the community.

The direct impact of these services on the lives of Americans with disabilities cannot be overstated. For an individual with a severe disability who has never had the opportunity to hold a job, be independent, participate in community life, or contribute their talents to society; the AbilityOne Program and agencies like the Beacon Group are invaluable.

I am pleased to acknowledge the tremendous accomplishments of the AbilityOne Program and the dedication and commitment of Steven R. King the President and CEO of the Beacon Group and his staff. Each day they assist individuals with disabilities to find meaningful employment and assume their rightful place in our nation's workforce. I also want to commend each AbilityOne employee for their hard work and their participation in this important program.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORING THE INTEGRITY OF AMERICAN STATISTICS ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a very important piece of legislation with my colleagues Mr. DENT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. GERLACH to establish the Census Bureau as an independent agency. Because the founding fathers believed it to be indispensable to the basic principles of democratic representation, the decennial census was given a constitutional mandate. A scientific endeavor of such importance should be viewed by the American public to be completely independent and non-partisan. It is time to give the Census Bureau the independent status commensurate with the scientific agencies that are its peers, such as NASA, the National Science Foundation, and others. Elevating the Census Bureau to the status of an independent agency is a powerful statement to the American people and their leaders that the decennial census and the other critical surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are protected, and that our government will summon the best demographers, statisticians, scientists and managers we can find to lead this vital agency.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION POST 1066

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the American Legion's Post No. 1066 in Massapequa, New York and recognize its contributions to our country and their community on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Members of this post have served in many foreign wars including Korea, Germany, and Vietnam, actively defending the freedoms and liberties that we cherish so much as Americans. Furthermore, several members of Post No. 1066 have also served as members of our local police and fire departments, as well as local emergency responders. As the Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am particularly appreciative of their dedication and hard work.

Over the years, these veterans have served my district on Long Island in a number of ways. They have opened their doors to the community to serve as a food collection site for the Interfaith Nutritional Network and to collect items to send to our servicemen in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, they have collaborated with the American Red Cross to act as a disaster shelter for their neighborhood. They actively support local charities and host fundraisers for their benefit.

I am proud to represent these veterans who have served our country. They duly deserve praise for their continued participation as active citizens of New York and the United States. I would like to thank them for their leadership and continued service to our country.

HONORING KENNETH W. MACGREGOR

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kenneth W. MacGregor. Kenneth passed away on January 9, 2009 after battling cancer. He was an outstanding advocate for public education and providing a better future for our children.

After graduating from Michigan State University, Kenneth taught high school government and coached swimming. He became active in the Michigan Education Association and was instrumental in the development of their Political Action Committee. Working in the Michigan Education Association's Government Relations Department, Kenneth was active in promoting education issues in both Lansing and Washington. He advocated for public education and public education employees at all levels of government. During his 30 year career he implemented strategies that made the Political Action Committee a force to be reckoned with and emulated.

During Gary Owen's tenure as the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, he tapped Kenneth to serve as his Director of Public Affairs. In 2001 he joined the National Education Association's political team and worked as the Field Manager, Government Relations West. He retired from this position in 2006.

Even after his retirement, Kenneth still devoted time to political causes. He was an active backer of "Get out the Vote" campaigns. He had a can-do frame of mind and always believed that students deserved the best education possible.

Kenneth was married to Sue MacGregor for 21 years. They have two sons and five grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother and two brothers.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Kenneth W. MacGregor. His legacy lives on in the classrooms and public schools of Michigan and across our nation. Because of his life's work, students have gained better resources, better teachers, and better services. The public education system has lost a great supporter and I mourn his passing.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL THAT WILL ADDRESS THE NEED FOR A FOURTH PERMANENT JUDGESHIP FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congressman ABERCROMBIE a bill that would convert the fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii to permanent judgeship status.

The fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii was created in 1990 by Public Law 101-650. Although the judges appointed to temporary judgeships have lifetime appointments, legislation creating temporary judgeships usually specifies that the first vacancy in

the district cannot be filled after a certain date. In the 1990 bill, this time frame was determined to be ten years after each temporary judgeship was filled. That meant that Hawaii could not fill a temporary vacancy occurring after October 2004.

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court for civil litigants. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has previously recommended that Hawaii's fourth temporary judgeship be converted to permanent status. The conversion was included in the 2007 Judicial Conference Judgeship Biennial Recommendation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD ANTHONY PARISE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Ronald Anthony Parise. Dr. Parise led an admirable life of service to our country through his dedication to the space program and his exemplification of the ideals of good citizenship.

Dr. Parise was a distinguished native of Warren, Ohio, a graduate of Western Reserve High School and a physics graduate of Youngstown State University in 1973. He developed one of his deepest, life-long interests at the age of eleven when he became licensed for Amateur Radio. Dr. Parise's love of radio guided his life of research and exploration from his academic work to his work in space.

While at Youngstown State University, Dr. Parise's interest in astronomy and exploration flourished. He was a prominent member of the Astronomy Club at Youngstown State and a technician at the planetarium. After graduating from Youngstown State, Dr. Parise furthered his education by earning a Master's degree and a doctorate at the University of Florida.

In 1984, Dr. Parise was selected by NASA to be a payload specialist. He made two remarkable trips into outer space, once in 1990 aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* mission ASTRO-1 and once in 1995 aboard the space shuttle *Endeavor* mission ASTRO-2. Dr. Parise logged an astonishing total of 614 hours in space and traveled 10.6 million miles.

As payload specialist, Dr. Parise took his admiration of astronomy and his respect of radio to a new level. He used his passion for astronomy and radio to develop Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. This

development used a simple ham radio to communicate from space to Earth. The creation of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station was essential because it allowed schools to speak with astronauts and learn about space exploration. Dr. Parise established the radio communication link that inspired countless students to study and seek careers in vitally important scientific fields. This radio connection brought about the interest and devotion to outer space that we see today.

Dr. Parise also pioneered the operation of a telescope in space. He completed hundreds of observations regarding ultraviolet rays and x-rays in space. Dr. Parise's observations created a greater understanding of how celestial objects affect the birth of a star. These observations also expanded our knowledge of the complex life cycle of a star. As recognition for his accomplishments, NASA awarded Dr. Parise twice with its Space Flight Medal.

However, Dr. Parise's love of science did not end after his last space flight. After leaving NASA, he continued to inspire students to pursue careers in science as a motivational speaker. He traveled to many different schools to spread his enthusiasm and knowledge of science.

Dr. Parise led an impressive public life, but he also led an impressive family life. Ron Parise was known as a man who put his family and friends first and always valued the relationships in his life, especially his relationships with his wife and two children.

After a long and courageous battle with cancer, Dr. Ronald Anthony Parise passed away at the age of fifty-seven on May 9, 2008. Dr. Ronald Anthony Parise touched countless lives through his contributions to his community, his nation, and the world of science, and for this he will never be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 89 I was not able to reach the House floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE SUSAN BROWNELL ANTHONY BIRTHDAY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month—along with my Democratic colleague Congressman MICHAEL ARCURI—to introduce the Susan Brownell Anthony Birthday Act. This bill will designate the third Monday in February as a day to celebrate the legacy of Susan Brownell Anthony, a pioneer of the women's rights movement, and its leader for more than 50 years.

Born on February 15, 1820, Susan Brownell Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851

and attended her first women's rights convention in Syracuse in 1852. At that convention she was inspired to join the fight for women's suffrage, asserting that this was "the right women needed above every other." The first proposal for women's suffrage was presented to Congress in 1868, and the first formal women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution of the United States was introduced in January 1878. For 35 years after that first proposal was made, Susan Brownell Anthony appeared before every Congress to ask for passage of a suffrage amendment, demonstrating her unwavering dedication to the cause. Her last public words before her death on March 13, 1906 were "Failure is impossible."

Unfortunately, Susan Brownell Anthony did not live to see her dream of women's suffrage become a reality, but thankfully her heroic efforts were not in vain. On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the 19th amendment, and two weeks later, the Senate followed. The Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby, certified the ratification on August 26, 1920. The text of the 19th amendment states that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The United States has previously recognized Susan Brownell Anthony's tremendous contributions to our Nation. To commemorate her legacy, a marble statue of her and her women's rights colleagues, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was dedicated in the United States Capitol in 1921. Susan Brownell Anthony's picture appeared on postage stamps in 1936 and 1955. Her home in Rochester, New York, has been a National Historic Landmark since 1966, and in 1979, her image was placed on a dollar coin.

I am proud that the work of Susan Brownell Anthony and her fellow suffragists has been acknowledged and honored in these ways. However, as the founder and leader of the women's movement in the United States, Susan Brownell Anthony deserves a permanent place in our history. Passage of the Susan Brownell Anthony Birthday Act would make March 3 the first Federal holiday that celebrates the birthday of a woman, and would allow all women and men in the United States to celebrate and honor the legacy of a true American hero.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS J. HROMISIN

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Thomas J. Hromisin, the 2009 recipient of the Man of the Year Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Hromisin is a son of Jerry and Mary Ellen Hoban Hromisin, having been born April 30, 1983.

He attended St. John the Baptist Elementary School and Seton Catholic High School where he graduated in 2001 as vice president of the senior class. He has been a lifelong

member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston, where he has served as an acolyte and Eucharistic Minister.

Mr. Hromisin attended the University of Scranton on a four-year ROTC scholarship, majoring in criminal justice. As a Cadet, he attended Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He also attended Cadet Troop Leadership Training with a psychological operations unit at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was also a competitor on the Ranger Challenger Team.

Upon graduation, Mr. Hromisin received the distinguished graduate award in the fields of criminal justice and military science and he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army on May 28, 2005.

After completion of the Infantry Officer's Basic Course and attending Ranger School, he was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington in April 2006. He was promoted to first lieutenant in January 2007, and served as a mobile gun system platoon leader in the 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

During his unit's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he led his unit on 20 combat patrols and was critically wounded by a sniper on May 29, 2007, resulting in blindness and a traumatic brain injury. His recovery has included a month at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; seven months at the Drucker Brain Injury Center at Moss Rehab, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and six months at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Rehabilitation for the Blind in West Haven, Connecticut.

In September 2007, Mr. Hromisin was promoted to captain. At that time, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge. Mr. Hromisin resides at his home in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and continues to receive outpatient therapy.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Hromisin for the extraordinary and courageous service he has given to his country and for the profound sacrifices he has made in the defense of freedom and the protection of his fellow Americans.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The CTSA program is a noteworthy initiative with the potential to enhance and invigorate our nation's clinical and translational research enterprise.

As the representative from the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts, I am especially pleased that the program makes significant efforts to create new clinical research homes in academic settings and, so, strengthen our nation's current and future research infrastructure. Furthermore, I am quite proud that Boston institutions; Boston University, Harvard University, and Tufts University are 3 of the 38 sites that currently comprise the growing CTSA network.

Over the past few years, roughly level funding for NIH has severely limited the size of the

award that can be made to these and the other CTSA-recipient institutions. These funding challenges have had dire consequences for the program's implementation and have seriously impeded its very necessary expansion.

As an ardent supporter of NIH, I thank Chairman OBEY on the increased NIH funding in both the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

HONORING THE DELAWARE COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and dedication of The Delaware County Fire Police Association. These exceptional first responders are often overlooked by many communities in our nation. However, I am proud to say that is not the case in the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

In the past two years I have come to appreciate and respect the invaluable service these essential citizens provide to their neighbors and brothers and sisters in our Fire and Police Departments. Were it not for the training and bravery of the Fire Police, those initial moments, as a tragedy unfolds, would be chaotic and exponentially more dangerous. For it is the Fire Police who, when a situation is still uncertain, stand in the breach to afford other first responders the time, space and security they require to do their jobs.

As we learned tragically on September 11, 2001, the earliest moments of a crisis demand the greatest caution, experience and communication. I thank the Delaware County Fire Police Association for generations of public service. By consistently arriving at the right time and being in the right place they have saved untold numbers of lives and valuable, often irreplaceable property and possessions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that our nation take this moment to offer our thanks and appreciation to a group of hometown heroes, the Delaware County Fire Police Association.

HONORING PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank the students, faculty, administrators, staff, and parents of Pleasant Valley Community High School. Pleasant Valley students have now contributed over 100,000 hours of service as part of the innovative PVHS Service Learning Program.

In 2003, the PVHS community decided it was essential to teach students the importance of community service and civic responsibility. The school district created a bold service-learning program that requires all students to complete seventy hours of service before they graduate. Since the inception of the pro-

gram, PVHS students have contributed their passion, intelligence, and creativity to organizations across the United States and the world. They have served people in need and helped communities address some of our most difficult problems.

Today we face challenges that threaten the world economy, our national security, and the environment that makes life on earth possible. To meet these challenges and ensure that future generations can realize their full potential, we must embrace what the President has called a "new era of responsibility in America." PVHS students have answered this call and set an example for all citizens to follow. Congratulations to Pleasant Valley Community High School and thank you.

WANDA RIDDLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Wanda Riddle at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital on the occasion of celebrating 50 years as a Registered Nurse.

Wanda graduated from the College of St. Teresa as a Registered Nurse, and began her career at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital in 1955. She has dedicated almost her entire career to the hospital in Milan, MO and the community it serves. Wanda has had many accomplishments throughout her career, including starting the Sullivan County Ambulance Service at the hospital in the 1980s. She has also taught CNA classes, attended numerous inservice/education for cardiac and EKG interpretations, and has been a mentor to the entire nursing staff at Sullivan County Memorial Hospital.

Wanda has earned the gratitude and respect of her colleagues and fellow citizens of Sullivan County, Missouri. Her life's dedication and hard work should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Wanda Riddle for her dedicated service to Sullivan County Memorial Hospital. I know Wanda's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking her for her commitment to others and wishing her happiness and good health for years to come.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JOLIET PARK DISTRICT

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Joliet Park District. The park district is the 2009 recipient of the "Salute to Accomplishment" Award from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce. I join the Chamber of Commerce in saluting the Joliet Park District for its long record of service to the residents of Joliet, Illinois.

For 85 years, the Joliet Park District has played an integral role in the lives of its residents. The park district has enriched the lives of residents in a variety of areas providing opportunities for fitness, entertainment, and recreation as well as serving as an example for environmental stewardship.

Partnering with Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center, the park district runs the Saint Joseph Inwood Athletic Club. The center was recognized with the Community Partnership Award for Youth Fitness from the Illinois Department of Human Services. It is also known as a state-of-the art work of architecture.

The Joliet Park District provides fun for all ages. Nearly 1,500 children participated in the district's youth soccer program. Residents may also participate in basketball, baseball, volleyball, softball, hockey, and golf. Splash Station Water Park is a place where over 300,000 persons choose to escape the heat and 2,000 persons received swimming lessons. World-class musicians have entertained young and old at the annual Taste of Joliet.

Due to its commitment to a better environment, Joliet Park District has received grants from the State of Illinois. The district received an Illinois Clean Energy Grant for an upgrade to its multi-purpose building that included energy efficient lighting. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources contributed to the completion of its Bird Haven Greenhouse.

Once again, congratulations to the Joliet Park District. I know this treasured institution will continue to prosper.

CONGRATULATING PHOENIX ANALYSIS & DESIGN INCORPORATED ON ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of Phoenix Analysis & Design Technologies Incorporated, a mechanical engineering company in my home town of Tempe, Arizona.

Phoenix Analysis & Design was established in 1994 and has since become an important member of the Arizona business community. It has served as a leading consultant and provider of mechanical engineering services in the Southwest for fifteen years and continually sets the standard for excellent customer service.

The business thrives because it is committed to innovation and employee participation. It has increased its employment base from the initial four founders to 50 employees, and the personal integrity of each employee shines brightly with their timely and efficient service. Each member of the company is extremely talented and continually strives to master the new technologies of their field.

If one were to choose a place in Tempe to represent what the community should value, that place would be Phoenix Analysis & Design Technologies.

The success and longevity of this local company is a model for independent businesses. It is for these reasons and more that I ask you to join me in congratulating Phoenix Analysis & Design on this accomplishment and wish

them many more years of prosperous business.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the House passed version of H.R. 1105.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division B, COPS Law Enforcement Technology Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: County of Anderson, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 S. Main St, PO Box 8002, Anderson, SC 29622

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$50,000 to be used in implementing 800 megahertz radio technology for emergency responders. The nine EMS providers in Anderson County responded to approximately 21,000 calls for assistance in 2008 and the numbers increase each year. By converting over to the Palmetto P25 / 800mhz interoperable communications system, EMS squads will experience approximately 95% radio coverage when responding to calls. With the current VHF radio system, EMS squads now have only approximately 65% radio coverage within Anderson County. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division E, EPA, STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 399, Seneca, SC 29679

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$500,000 to be used for the construction of 125,000 GPD Phase I Wastewater Treatment Facility at Golden Corner Commerce Park and upgrade of wastewater treatment plant to 100,000 GPD at SC Welcome Center. Infrastructure added to this region provides for job creation, enhanced investment and development resulting in an improved economy. In addition to federal funding, the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority has secured a \$1 million grant from the state, and approximately \$2.8 million from county government to fund the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clemson University

Address of Requesting Entity: 201 Sikes Hall, Clemson, SC 29634

Description of Request: I have secured \$100,000 for the Clemson University Ad-

vanced Materials Innovation Center. The Advanced Materials Innovation Center at Clemson's Advanced Materials Center in Anderson County will serve as a research and development campus for start-up companies devoted to cutting-edge research, development, and job creation in the advanced materials field. The Innovation Center will house fledgling high-technology companies that focus on such advanced materials as optics, nanotechnology, and biomaterials. It will also provide space for entrepreneurial start-ups and Clemson University spin-off companies. These federal funds will be used to develop laboratories at the Advanced Materials Innovation Center. With many manufacturing jobs going overseas, there is a critical need in the United States, and particularly in South Carolina, of incubators such as the Advanced Materials Innovation Center to accelerate the creation of knowledge-based companies. The United States must also continue to develop new advanced materials to ensure continued military superiority. It is my understanding that \$9.5 million in funding is expected to be provided by non-federal sources for this project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division C, Title III Department of Energy, Section: Congressional Directed Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Clemson University

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Brackett Hall Box 5702 Clemson University Clemson, SC 29634

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$951,500 in funding to construct and operate a pilot plant at a brownfield industrial site in Charleston, SC, to scale-up commercially viable technology for conversion of cellulosic feedstocks from the coastal plains, i.e. trees, wood residuals, and row crops, to bio-fuels and other higher value products. Currently, biofuels are the only alternative that can be readily incorporated into the existing petroleum-based transportation infrastructure. The development of commercially-viable biomass facilities will help our nation move away from dependency on traditional fossil fuels and towards energy independence, all without affecting our nation's food supply. Approximately \$50,000 (5%) will go towards site utilities/grading; \$680,000 (71%) will go towards building structure; and the remainder (24%) will go towards process equipment, support utility systems and construction fees.

In addition to federal funding, Clemson University will contribute in-kind and financial resources, including over \$1.5 million in resources already committed. It is also expected that private industry will provide a total of \$6-8 million for the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Laurens County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 3 Catherine Street, Laurens, SC 29360

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$285,000 in funding to widen approximately 5,400 linear feet of U.S. Highway 221 between the Hunter/Fleming-Smith Industrial Site and the City of Laurens. This highway improvement project will allow for increased volume and greater safety for commuter and truck traffic to and from the expanding Hunter/Fleming-Smith Industrial Site and surrounding areas. The Industrial Site plays an important role in the economic development of Laurens County. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition to this federal funding, Laurens will be providing approximately \$333,000 for the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orangeburg County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1437 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$95,000 in funding for the installation of an interchange at the intersection of US Highway 301 and I-95 in Orangeburg County. Currently, U.S. Highway 301 stops at the intersection of I-95, causing the 301 traffic to enter onto an extremely busy portion of I-95 for just one mile in order to exit off onto Hwy 6. This highway improvement will help traffic flow more smoothly and support the planning for an intermodal transportation facility as well as distribution centers and transportation-related businesses. This interchange is included on the State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) as part of the Lower Savannah Long-Range Transportation Plan. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration and is a continuation of funding from fiscal year 2008. The County of Orangeburg has committed \$2 million to the project and the state of South Carolina has committed an additional \$3 million. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Interstate Maintenance, Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orangeburg County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1437 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$950,000 in funding for the installation of an interchange at the intersection of US Highway 301 and I-95 in Orangeburg County. Currently, U.S. Highway 301 stops at the intersection of I-95, causing the 301 traffic to enter onto an extremely busy portion of I-95 for just one mile in order to exit off onto Hwy 6. This highway improvement will help traffic flow more smoothly and support the planning for an intermodal transportation facility as well as distribution centers and transportation-related businesses. This interchange is included on the State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) as part of the Lower

Savannah Long-Range Transportation Plan. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration and is a continuation of funding from fiscal year 2008. The County of Orangeburg has committed \$2 million to the project and the state of South Carolina has committed an additional \$3 million. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, despite many severe misgivings I have with the legislation.

Last night the President gave us a frank and candid assessment of the dire situation of our economy, and I remain committed to ensuring that appropriations bills reflect an appropriate federal response. This bill will strengthen the social safety net so that individuals and families that have been affected by the recession can meet their daily needs. This bill includes substantial and badly needed increases in funding for food assistance to combat starvation and malnutrition in the elderly and those of modest income.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been inundated by a surge in unemployment claims. Constituents have called my office to tell me that they cannot even get through on the phone to speak to someone about their claim. Facing such an extraordinary increase in demand, I am glad that the states will get some help. The bill increases funding by 10% for state offices to process this surge in unemployment claims.

Cleveland, unfortunately, has been at the epicenter of the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crisis. The number of foreclosures continues to increase; some neighborhoods still average two foreclosures per day. Up to 6,000 voucher holders have yet to find affordable housing in Cuyahoga County—and this does not include the estimated 19,000 people who qualify for vouchers but are forced to endure a years-long waiting list.

The bill increases overall funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by 10%. This includes increases in funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund to keep the doors open in our existing public housing, the Public Housing Capital Fund to build new public housing, and tenant- and project-based voucher programs. The bill also increases funding for homeless assistance grants.

The bill provides several other funding increases in areas of particular need for Northeast Ohio. There is \$187 million dedicated to making emergency communication more reliable through interoperability funding. There is a \$385 million increase in funding for NASA, an economic anchor for the region and the state. There is \$273 million for research on more fuel-efficient vehicles, which will help our ailing auto industry and the other industries on which it relies. There is \$40.7 billion in infrastructure funding, a \$484 million increase over

FY08 levels and an integral part of Northeast Ohio's economic recovery.

However, I am deeply saddened and frustrated by sections of the State and Foreign Operations portion of this bill that continue counterproductive policies regarding the Middle East and drug policy. I am hopeful that with the leadership of President Obama a new U.S. policy on the Middle East will emerge. It is time for the U.S. to move beyond the biased policy contained in this portion of the bill.

The surest way for this body to ensure the safety and security of Israel while encouraging peace in the Middle East is to craft a policy that encourages Israel to end the blockade of Gaza and the occupation of Palestinian lands. The U.S. must also call on Israel to implement a freeze on settlement building.

Instead this bill undermines any effort to position the U.S. as an honest broker for peace in the region. The bill gives \$75 million in funding for aid to be shared between Gaza and the West Bank while giving \$2.4 billion in grants for Israel including \$670 million for procurement of military equipment alone. Adding to this extreme imbalance, the bill also places far more restrictions on the humanitarian aid to Gaza than on the arms funding for Israel. If the U.S. was an honest broker of peace, the reverse would be true. The United Nations has declared in no uncertain terms that peace in the Middle East, which is the best way for Israel to achieve security, cannot be achieved militarily. By favoring arms over aid, this bill takes us in the wrong direction during a time when relations between Gaza and Israel are particularly strained.

This bill also includes funding for counter-narcotics initiatives in Afghanistan, Mexico, Colombia, and other regions in Latin America, continuing supply-side interdiction efforts that have done nothing to disturb the flow of illicit drugs into our country. Research clearly demonstrates that money directed to domestic demand-reduction efforts—drug treatment, drug abuse prevention, youth intervention programs, and the like—is more effective at reducing drug consumption and curtailing the flow of illicit drugs into the country. Moreover, such efforts usually increase the price of drugs in circulation, which only leads to increased violence and crime in communities. So long as the demand for a product exists, enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get the drugs to those addicted to them.

I support this bill because the needs of my district come first, and the money in this bill will go far toward alleviating the stress on my constituents and my district caused by the economic downturn. However, I find it reprehensible that I am also forced to support these other provisions, and I look forward to working with leadership and the Administration to support policies that engage all parties and encourage peace rather than aggression.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today we are pleased to introduce the Patent Reform Act of 2009. The Patent Reform Act of 2009

is bipartisan and largely, bicameral legislation intended to tackle a number of problems in our patent system. The bill reflects the substantial progress made last Congress in both the House and Senate. Indeed, the text of the Patent Reform Act is in many ways a composite of the bill that passed the House and the bill that was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee last Congress.

This bill is a starting point for further discussion and in the matter of inequitable conduct reform, I will be looking to my friend from Utah, ORRIN HATCH for his insights on that issue. It is my intention to work closely with him to craft language on inequitable conduct that can be incorporated into the bill at a later time.

I am proud to stand today with my colleagues, Representatives LAMAR SMITH, HOWARD BERMAN, ROBERT GOODLATTE, and SHEILA JACKSON LEE to introduce this legislation that is directed toward encouraging innovation now and long into the 21st century. I particularly thank two of my cosponsors, HOWARD BERMAN and LAMAR SMITH, for their hard work and dedication to this endeavor through the years which has provided a common-sense framework of reforms upon which to build.

This piece of legislation is among the most important things that we will work on as our Nation's economic future is dependent on our ability to innovate and efficiently and effectively protect the products of that innovation. I look forward to working with all interested parties in perfecting the Patent Reform Act in the coming months.

APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION TO THOMAS WOODWARD

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the service of Thomas Woodward, who is retiring on March 6 after serving the Congress with distinction for 30 years in an extraordinary variety of ways and places. This nation and this Congress owe a great debt of gratitude to this outstanding public servant. Tom may be the only person—and if not, is certainly one of very few—who has worked at GAO, CRS, and CBO. He began his government service in 1979 at GAO, where he first became involved in analyzing the economy and helped produced GAO's economic outlook. In 1982, Tom went to work for the Congressional Research Service, where he was a specialist in macroeconomics in the Economics Division and produced a number of studies on the banking system, monetary policy, and other issues. Tom was detailed to the House Budget Committee in 1991 and 1992, where he served as Chief Economist for the Republican staff. Tom returned to CRS after his service on the Budget Committee and continued to produce and supervise high quality analyses for members of Congress.

In 1998, Tom became Assistant Director for Tax Analysis at the Congressional Budget Office. For the past 11 years, Tom has overseen the production of numerous studies, revenue forecasts, and cost estimates for committees and Members of Congress. In all of his inter-

actions with Members and their staff, Tom maintained the high quality and timely analyses that we have come to expect of CBO. Tom's breadth of knowledge, objective analyses, and good humor are appreciated by everyone who works with him—and next week, for the first time in 30 years, this Congress will not have the benefit of his wisdom, economic knowledge, and analytical skills as it addresses the critical public policy issues that face the nation. I understand he plans to continue to research economic issues after his retirement from Congressional service, and we look forward to that work and wish him well in his retirement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership Standards on Earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (Construction)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2109, New York, NY 10278

Description of Request: \$2,010,000 to the Army Corps to complete the reformulation study and continue monitoring a project to protect Long Island's south shore from beach erosion and storm damage. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (Construction)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Town of Babylon

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Description of Request: \$465,000 for the dredging of a federal channel and placement of appx. 1 million cubic yards of sand along the shoreline for erosion control at Gilgo Beach and Robert Moses State Park. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (Investigations)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Bayville

Address of Requesting Entity: 34 School Street, Bayville, NY 11709

Description of Request: \$96,000 to complete the feasibility phase of the benefits of a storm damage protection project in Bayville. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Labor, HHS, & Education—Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter Burn Center Fund

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 765 Smithtown, NY 11787

Description of Request: \$285,000 for a living skin bank clean room (equipment). I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Labor, HHS, & Education—Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Christa House

Address of Requesting Entity: 720 Albin Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704

Description of Request: \$176,000 for hospice care for the poor (physical repairs, administrative costs, and insurance). I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation & HUD—Capital Investment Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York City Metro Transit Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 347 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017

Description of Request: \$209,623,898 for the development of Long Island Rail Road East Side Access. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Commerce, Justice, & Science—NOAA (Operations, Research & Facilities) Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science

Address of Requesting Entity: 526 Bay Avenue Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 for a multi-state research initiative in New York and New Jersey to address data limitations restricting management of summer flounder in the Mid-Atlantic. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: State & Foreign Operations—Educational & Cultural Exchange Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S.-Ireland Alliance

Address of Requesting Entity: 2800 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201

Description of Request: \$500,000 for the George Mitchell Scholarship Program a nationally competitive scholarship award for 12 US college graduates to do a year of post-graduate study at universities in Ireland and Northern Ireland. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation & HUD—Transportation, Community, & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$570,000 for the design, engineering, and construction of the Glen Cove Connector Road. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105
Account: Transportation & HUD (Buses and Bus Facility)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$950,000 for the design, engineering, and construction of the Glen Cove Connector Multi-Modal Parking Hub. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation & HUD—Ferry Boats & Terminal Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$950,000 for engineering and construction of the Glen Cove Ferry Terminal. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Commerce, Justice, & Science—COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$120,000 for the Glen Cove Police Department for equipment and technology upgrades, surveillance equipment, and public safety improvements to respond more effectively to emerging threats such as MS-13 and other gang activity. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation & HUD—Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$142,500 for renovations and streetscape improvements to the city of Glen Cove. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: State & Foreign Operations—Educational & Cultural Exchange Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hofstra University

Address of Requesting Entity: 101 Hofstra University Hempstead, NY 11549

Description of Request: This report language would allow Hofstra University to apply for funding for its Center for Strategic Language training which will specialize in Middle Eastern and Central Asian languages such as Arabic and Persian, as well as Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Commerce, Justice & Science—Office of Justice Programs (Byrne Discretionary Grants)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Address of Requesting Entity: 250 Fulton Avenue, Suite 300, Hempstead, NY 11550

Description of Request: \$350,000 to create a legal resource network of pro-bono attorneys to provide critical legal services for low-income and indigent victims of domestic violence, rape/sexual assault, and elder abuse. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Commerce, Justice & Science—Office of Justice Programs (Byrne Discretionary Grants)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nassau County Police Department

Address of Requesting Entity: 1490 Franklin Avenue Mineola, NY 11501

Description of Request: \$380,000 for an initiative to reduce gun and gang violence through increased surveillance, debriefings, investigations, and undercover work. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Interior & Environment—EPA (STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Suffolk County Department of Works

Address of Requesting Entity: 335 Yaphank Avenue Yaphank, NY 11980

Description of Request: \$500,000 for the planning, design, and replacement of a deteriorated existing bay outfall pipe. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (FUSRAP)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Verizon

Address of Requesting Entity: 140 West Street, New York, NY 10007

Description of Request: Report language to initiate cleanup of the former Sylvania nuclear fuel site in Hicksville, NY. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tuesday's Children

Address of Requesting Entity: 390 Plandome Road, Suite 217, Manhasset, NY 11030

Description of Request: \$190,000 for the primary focus of the First Responder Institute will be to provide counseling for 9/11 First Responders and other public safety workers involved in protecting our homeland security. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center's Postpartum Depression Treatment Program

Address of Requesting Entity: 480 Old Westbury Road, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

Description of Request: \$147,000 to increase services available to mothers and children through the Maternal Depression Outreach Program. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.